



Case Study

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

"I have learned different skills. I have made new friends. I have found out what qualities a leader needs. I have really enjoyed myself"

- Student Leader, Northamptonshire

The Course

39 students from years 7, 8 and 9 of Magdalen College, Brackley, Northampton attended a three-day course on Youth Leadership during Spring half term 2007. The course was run by National UFA staff with support from teachers and peer facilitators from years 11 and 12 at the school.



themselves – writing and rewriting some of the material.

Aims

The main aim of the Youth Leadership training is to empower young people and to give them confidence to lead and manage projects in and around their school community. Magdalen College attracts a diverse range of students, many from rural areas.

Background

The National College of School Leadership, Youth Leadership Programme was created and piloted by the UFA (University of the First Age) and CSV (Community Service Volunteers) in London as part of London Challenge. It is designed to develop leadership skills, by enabling young people to practice and reflect on their role as a student leader. On completion of the course students can opt to evidence their learning and gain an Open College Network (OCN) Certificate 'Being a young leader'. The course has been refined by young people

Brackley is a small town where students feel little is on offer for them. It was the intention to equip young people with the skills to set up and run projects for their peer groups, in or out of school.

Overview

Over the 3 days the course included:

- Ice-breakers/energisers.
- Team activities run by the peer facilitators.
- Discussion around leadership skills.

- Who are the good leaders in our lives?
- What are communities?
- Bidding for community projects.
- Preparation for and meeting with Headteacher to discuss leadership projects and roles they could take up in the school community.
- Accountability.
- Bidding for community projects.
- Group presentations on 'Leadership'.

Evaluation

By the end of the three days it was evident that many of the students had developed their confidence in working with mixed age groups and also speaking in public. Every group gave a presentation on the last day in front of peers, staff and senior management from the school. Their progress was apparent. Students from year 7 had commented at the beginning of the project that they were anxious about working with the older year 9 students, but by the end of day three they found it was easier than they expected and that they had all made new friends.

Student comments:

- *"Now I feel more confident in my abilities. I now feel I can get my points across with subtle arguments or by converting others to my point of view. I also feel like I can take a stronger role in my sports team because of the skills I have learnt on this course."*
- *"I have learned different skills. I have made new friends. I have found out what qualities a leader needs. I have really enjoyed myself."*

Student evaluation:

33 students (out of 39 who completed the form) felt 'really good' about working with someone other than their best friend and 38 students felt 'really good' about working with students from other year groups and/or schools. 35 students felt confident to start leading a project tomorrow. 100% of students said that they understood what student leadership was as a result of the course.

Teachers and Peer Facilitator comments:

- *"A lot of confidence has been gained".*
- *"Very useful experience for all participants. Evidence of leadership qualities in the students now really obvious".*
- *"Everyone has learned something new".*
- *"I have seen a big change in many of the students*



taking part. Matured and taken onboard and implementing qualities that are needed in leaders."

The Future

The Northamptonshire UFA team will continue to support the school by coaching the peer facilitators to become UFA Peer Tutors and encouraging the students to use their skills with younger students in the school. The school plan to continue working with the students who took part in the course, to help them use their leadership skills to develop school and community projects. In addition, the Headteacher plans to use some of the ideas he was given during the course and put them into practice at the school!

The course is now being offered to all secondary schools and youth agencies across the county. For further information please contact Danielle Stone of the UFA Northamptonshire team:

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