

# SUCCESS 4 ALL



LEARNING HUBS®  
*Young People Learning From Each Other*

## S4A NEWSLETTER

Issue 5

1<sup>st</sup> April 2015

### Welcome

So far this year, we have had a record-breaking number of volunteers who have given up their time to support us.

In terms of volunteering opportunities, there is a little something for everyone; peer tutoring and befriending, events and fundraising, corporate sponsorship, and developing learning materials and resources.

With these roles on offer, we have reached a staggering total of **148** amazing individuals who are supporting us.

Meetings with *Volunteer Centre Newcastle* and other voluntary organisations have already started to generate ideas to celebrate our volunteers during *Volunteer Week* in June 2015.



### LEARNING HUBS

Following on from the 329 learners who registered last term, a further 105 have joined us, making that a total of **434**. Over this last half-term (5 weeks), young people have visited our Learning Hubs a total of **890** times, at an average of **178** times per week.

Adding on from a team of 105 volunteers last term, a further 43 have expanded the S4A volunteers team since January, making that a total of **148**. Our tutees have been supported by volunteers tutors **436** times, at an average of **87.2** times per week.

# Our Learning Hubs

## THE MILLIN CENTRE

*'Firstly, since I have come here, you guys have helped me very well in my writing and speech in school. I am improving my work and because you have helped me with my homework I understand better and for this I am very happy'* (Virginia, new arrival. Y10, EAL Learner)

*'I came to know S4A through the Millin Centre. My son Shayan enjoys coming here. As a parent, it is a good opportunity for children to do their homework with supervision of the tutors. It's not only the peer tutor relationship; in fact they collaboratively learn from someone who is a student themselves. This gives them a good feeling, and by sharing their experiences they learn from each other in a most comfortable and friendly environment.'* (Akifa, a parent of a learner, who started as a volunteer Parent Tutor, and who is now our Learning Hub Coordinator at the Millin Centre)

## NEWCASTLE CITY LEARNING CENTRE

*'Since starting my one to one tutoring with Harry at CL, I have definitely become more confident in GCSE maths. I feel I have learnt a lot and will improve the grade I should get this year. Harry helps me with areas I have concerns with and explains really well how to calculate things. It's definitely worth doing this!'* (Adam, Y11, receiving 1-to-1 Maths tuition from a peer tutor)

*4 Sixth Form students from St Cuthbert are volunteering with Success4All as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The boys are also completing the Level 3 AQA Accreditation in Peer Tutoring and Befriending with us. They recently completed a practise expedition to complete their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, walking 15K! We've never known such a bunch of dedicated teenagers!*

**So far this year, the Hub has had 85 tutees registered and the support of 41 volunteer Peer Tutors.**

**So far this year, the Hub has had 43 tutees registered and the support of 23 volunteer Peer Tutors.**

## BENTINCK

*'So, I started Success4All because I wanted to get a bit of experience working with kids in a supportive role and I was hoping this would help me work out if I wanted to do a PGCE or not. I've really enjoyed my time so far and my confidence with working with the children has grown a lot. It's also allowed me to gain a bit of knowledge about the national curriculum and about the kind of work children are doing in school, both of which will be useful to me on a PGCE course.'* (Lauren has been with us since the start of this academic year. We recently provided her with a reference and she has been accepted to start a PGCE-course at Newcastle University)

*'Being a committed regular to the Bentinck Success 4 All Learning Hub, Hamza has progressed both academically as well as socially and has clearly expressed this at Bentinck.'*

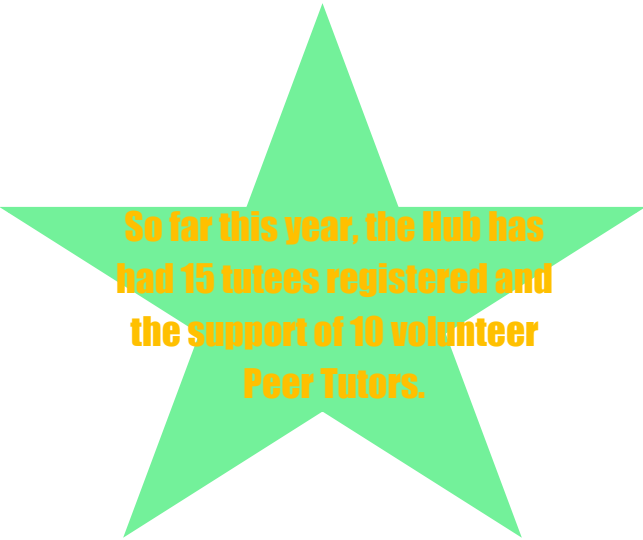
*The work that Hamza has produced so far this year has been impressive but it was made more apparent to me when I was talking to his mum Nicole who happily said; "Since coming to the Hub Hamza's grades in his report have increased, I couldn't be happier."*

*Hamza himself expressed his happiness when he told me; "I got a level 6b for Maths when I got a 5b before!"*

*When Hamza attends the Learning Hub he utilises all the resources available to him: "I come here because it helps me with revision and homework. I can use the laptops to help me with revision and the tutors really help too."*

*Hamza never has a problem with socialising, either with the tutors or the other tutees. I believe this ability to be able to talk to everyone has been a real asset, improving his*

*chances to progress academically as he is able to discuss his work in detail with the tutors and fellow peers. (Dan, who used to be a volunteer tutor and is now our Learning Hub Coordinator for Bentinck)*



**So far this year, the Hub has had 15 tutees registered and the support of 10 volunteer Peer Tutors.**

## THROCKLEY

*'Billy has put a lot of work into improving his writing over the past few months. He's really improved his technique for researching factual topics – whether it's the First World War for homework, or his favourite American Wrestlers. He's gone from being a bit reluctant to write anything in his own words, to doing a great bit of writing almost every week. Well done Billy!'* (This is a quote from Mike, a volunteer at our Throckley Learning Hub who works with Billy).

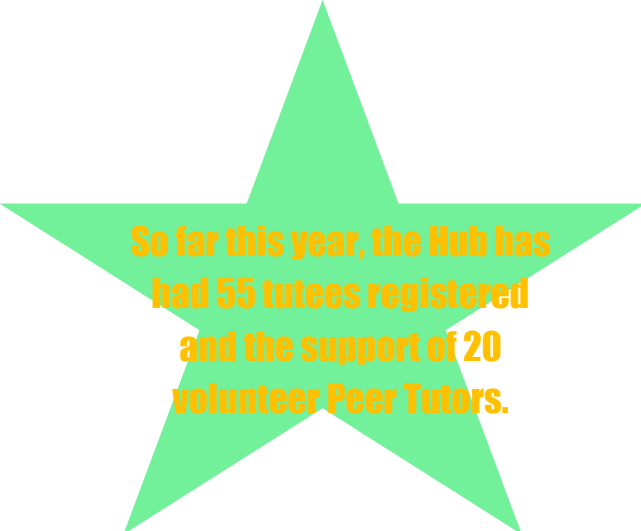
*His Mum says 'Billy loves coming here – it's the only time he does actual work involving pens and paper and computers.'*



**the s and  
the s nteer**

## BLAKELAW

*'I have always wanted to learn more about British food and new recipes so that I can cook it at home. The Cooking Club here at Blakelaw has allowed me to do that! And the food isn't too expensive. I like how parents can also get involved and learn something to. I have also received help with my English over the years. I am one happy parent.'* (Tahsan's Mum Aziza, who joined in with our Cooking Club so she could learn more about English food and keep herself and her family healthy)

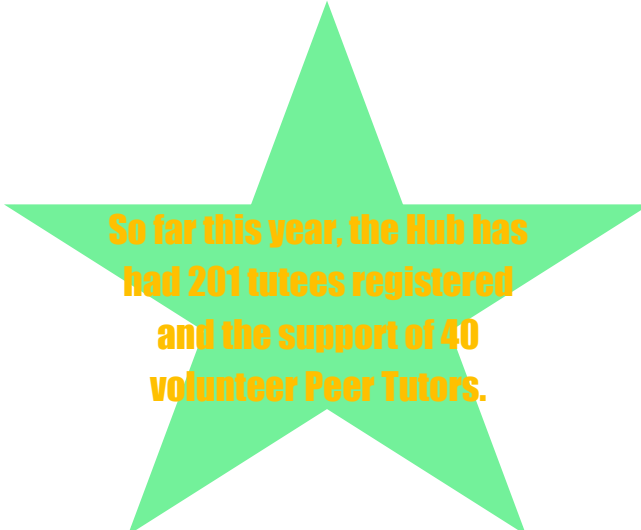


**So far this year, the Hub has had 55 tutees registered and the support of 20 volunteer Peer Tutors.**

## WALKER

*'Learning Hub is very nice. I do maths and English. I don't like maths, it's too hard. I read books with Ksenia. She is very nice. We do homework together.'* (Ibrahim, new arrival Y8, EAL learner who has progressed from barely single words at the beginning of the year to writing full sentences on his own, and the week before last they did multiplication of two digit numbers, a first! Ibrahim attends the Hub Monday to Friday)

*'I've been working with Ibrahim since October 2014, aiming to improve his English and Maths skills. I can tell that being at the Learning Hub has not only helped him to start speaking English and improved his basic maths skills, but has helped him to gain important social skills and confidence.'* (Ksenia, his Russian 1-to-1 EAL Peer Tutor. She has been coming twice a week for about five months)



**So far this year, the Hub has had 201 tutees registered and the support of 40 volunteer Peer Tutors.**

# Our Clubs

After a term of planning and raising funds, it was our Newcastle University Career Development Students' turn to run their Cooking, Crochet and Blogging Clubs.

## Cooking Club

After raising £365 at the 'Yoga with a View' event with the Newcastle Yoga Society and gaining funds from VInspired, Katie was able to successfully pass on her passion for nutritious food, healthier choices, and baking skills to the children at our Blakelaw Hub.

After researching how diet can affect our learning, Katie found that eating healthy and nutritious food can improve behavior and grades as children are less disruptive and have better levels of concentration.

During the Cooking Club, the children learnt how to bake 2 main meals; KFC Chicken Wraps and Meatball Pasta, and 2 desserts; Clever Cookies and Brownies. Katie also put together a recipe book that the 20 children were able to take home to cook with their parents. All recipes are low-cost, showing that reduced fat doesn't mean a reduced bank account!

Katie believes that healthier lifestyles should be encouraged because it *'is fundamentally important to a child's education and should be part of the school curriculum . . . to really make a difference to their food education and keep cooking skills alive, there needs to be more opportunities for them to get in the kitchen.'*



## 02 Think Big Crochet

Lara, a volunteer who has a love for crochet because of its relaxing qualities, ran a Crochet Club at our Walker Learning Hub this term. Although some had crocheted before, most hadn't, so it seemed fit to call it 'Crochet for Beginners'.



*"After successfully planning and being granted funding from 02 Think Big, I was raring to get the Club promoted! Designed so that anyone could come along after doing their homework at the Learning Hub, we started with basic stitches that were perfect for phone socks, before moving on to more advanced stitches like granny squares."*

Lara brought lots of ideas and examples of previous work she has done to give the learners the freedom to make something they wanted. Crochet is great to wind down after school and homework and gives the young people the creative skills to make gifts rather than buy them.

Some students joined on a drop-in basis and learnt the basic stitches, and some came regularly and progressed to making complex crocheted flowers. It was the comments from the students like *'I'm really happy with what I've done'* that really made the Club worthwhile for Lara. She was over the moon that the Club attracted boys and girls, and older ones from Sixth Form as well as the younger ones from high school.



The Club ended on a high on a Saturday afternoon in the school's library with muffins and popcorn and an unlimited choice of movies, courtesy of Netflix, while they crocheted whatever they wanted to. As it was the day before Mother's Day, Lara brought broaches with her that could be sewed on to the crocheted flowers, making a great Mother's Day gift. Lara said that *'It was such a fantastic day which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was also really rewarding to be thanked by the students, and told how much they had enjoyed it.'*

Our verdict is that crocheting is a great way to de-stress during exam period! Get the crochet hooks and wool ready . . .

## Blogging

Blogging Club lasted for six weeks and was run by Rebecca, a student at Newcastle University. The aim was to have an

introduction to blogging, brush up on writing skills, and try out filming with video cameras.

Blogging is a great way to practise extended writing for those essays and exams, but you don't even realise you are doing it because you're writing about something you're passionate about, not because you have to.

Rebecca reports: *"In the first session, they made mind maps about everything they found interesting or exciting, including favourite TV programmes and music, as well as social and political justice issues. With all their ideas laid out in front of them, it was easier to narrow down what they wanted to write about. In session 2, we learnt how to create a blog on Blogspot and spent time customising the appearance and layout of our pages. Students chose a vast variety of topics to blog about, including music, vloggers we admired, disabilities and transphobia. As sessions went on, we experimented with rhetorical devices to improve our writing styles, and wrote more posts. Blogging is great because what you write doesn't have to be perfect, and is all about getting words down on to the post. It can help with writer's block, especially when you get more practice. In our final week, we experimented with filming and photography, using a DSLR camera borrowed from Newcastle University. They learnt some photography techniques, then filmed each other in an interview style. They also did their own 'Draw my Life' shots, inspired by the similar YouTube videos created by Vloggers. The finished video will be posted on S4A's website! Everyone who took part contributed some fantastic posts and ideas to the group. One particular achievement was a year 9 student, who had set herself a goal of 30 views and ended up getting almost 100! She said what she enjoyed about the experience was 'the fact that you don't have to stick to*



*the same structure every week. You can work on what you feel like at the time.'* Here's what some of her blog looked like:

As part of the Club, they also took part in the Anne Frank Trust Generation Diary Campaign, submitting our own entries on social justice. A year 12 student's entry on how to support a friend who is transgender was published on the website! You can read it here:

<http://generationdiary.org.uk/diary/personal-feelings>

## **'East by North East' - Youth Music Project**

East by North East is a Youth Music funded project led by GemArts, working in partnership with the Sage Gateshead, Newcastle City Council and Success4All. Young people have worked alongside regional musicians to develop their musical talents and build confidence in their own music making ability.

At the beginning of the year, the children were able to demonstrate their developed ability in CHAT's recording studios, a first time experience that they all enjoyed.

To celebrate the achievements of the group, and the success of this project, GemArts held workshops and performances at Sage Gateshead during half-term, on the 16th and 18th February 2015.



On the 16th, S4A children came together with the other four groups for a Big Jam session before moving on to designing their own t-shirts, learning how to graffiti, and playing with some super-sized drums.



The performances that they have been working on since the beginning of the academic year took place on 18th. The S4A children named 'Super Music' performed a song they wrote called '*Just Like You*'. They were the first on and had some of the youngest participants of the whole group. Then it was the other four groups turn to enjoy their time in the limelight, showing off the hard work they have been doing for a whole year. Some of the children had never performed to a big audience before so it was a momentous occasion!

The experience of the East by North East music project has left them all very keen to continue making music together.

## An Engaging Way to Learn a Language

Last term, the young people attending the Japanese Club at Walker Technology College went on a trip to the Japanese School in Washington. Since then, they have made a link with another school, this time a High School actually located in Japan! The students have been exchanging letters (see letter below), a brilliantly engaging way for Walker students to practice their Japanese reading and writing skills!

Next on the agenda for the Walker group is to organise their own event that will be all about the Japanese culture and language.

Inspired by the Japanese Club in Walker, another Newcastle University student studying Japanese introduced the language too to our Blakelaw Hub.

To prove to the children how much they had learnt (including how to sing 'Head, Knees and Toes' in Japanese), Jordan gave them a little test in Japanese to end the Club. Everyone passed and they were all rewarded with Japanese sweets!

日本語が大好きです。私も英語が好きです。Rachaelは、日本語を勉強しています。  
私は、日本語を勉強しています。私も英語が好きです。日本語を勉強しています。  
日本語が大好きです。私も英語が好きです。

I like school and PE, too! Also I love English. I've been to England to study English before and I thought England is a beautiful country because there were many old buildings and nature. People were very kind to me! I'd love to visit there again!  
From Mika Imota

## 'Everyday Muslim': A Celebration of Muslim Heritage in the UK

WEYDA's documentary 'Young, Religious and Judged' opened up an experience for the 11-16 year olds that wouldn't have been possible otherwise.



The WEYDA documentary, that explored views and opinions of young people of different religions in the West End of Newcastle, caught the attention of Dr. Katherine Lloyd, a research associate for the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies at Newcastle University and 'Co-Curate North East' project. The project 'aims to open up 'official' museum and 'un-official' co-created community -based collections and archives through innovative collaborative approaches using social media and open archives/date.'

Dr Katherine Lloyd invited our WEYDA-group,





which stands for West End Young Digital Artists, to join her presentation in London at 'The Everyday Muslim', a five-year project running to create a central archive of Muslim lives, arts, education and culture from across the UK.

Saturday 31st 2015 was the date of our inaugural symposium. 20 speakers and 150 delegates from across the UK and Europe gathered together at Bishopsgate Institute in London to represent museums, archives, academia, art and media organisations. Everyone shared their experience of collecting, documenting, presenting and preserving British Muslim heritage.

The WEYDA group was the only group of young people and the only group from the North representing their Muslim heritage. Most of the people there were academics, however, they were all very impressed with the work the WEYDA group is doing and they would like to be kept informed.



A trip to London doesn't come very often and for one of the young people it was their first time ever in London, so they decided to make the most of it. As part of their Key Fund, they researched, budgeted and scheduled activities in London – a hard task because of the vast amount of choices and prices of our Capital City, and the limited time they had after the symposium. The London Dungeons proved popular with the young people and their parents which resulted in a very quiet train journey home after such a long action-packed day.

Moving forward from this, the WEYDA group are still working with Co-Curate and are hoping to put together an exhibition of their very own in the Discovery Museum.

---

# Fundraising

---

## Gregg Comes for a Visit

Thanks to the Greggs Foundation, our 'Fast Food to Good Food' Cooking Club idea reached another 3 of our Learning Hubs. At the same time as the Cooking Club in Blakelaw, a second was based on the West Road of Newcastle, where the streets are filled with numerous fast food outlets that young people and their families can so easily be visiting for their daily dinner.



On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Ian Blackwood, the Greggs sausage roll entrepreneur par excellence, visited the Cooking Club, as that week, the group were experimenting with Greggs' famous sausage rolls, veggie style.



Each group was working off the same basic recipe, but every group chose a different spice and herb to work with. Ian Blackwood was teamed with two young brothers, and they flavoured their rolls with thyme and a mild curry powder. Before his group started rolling, Ian who was sporting his Greggs apron, showed off Greggs' impressive sausage roll machine, and how it makes the world's largest roll. His group was never going to be able to compete with a machine with like this, but they certainly went about making the rolls with military precision. They even put their signature on some of the sausage rolls.

Success4All and the children from Cooking Club would love to thank the Greggs Foundation and Ian Blackwood for their support in making the Club a possibility. Thank you all very much, we have had so much fun with healthy food, and most importantly, not a Brussel sprout in sight!!!

## Society Sponsorship

SCAN, the volunteering department at Newcastle University, introduced Success4All to our first group of volunteers back in 2006, and the support hasn't stopped there.

This year, 4 societies have chosen to sponsor Success4All. A Massive Thank You go to the Yoga, Hockey, Pole Dancing and Geography Societies at Newcastle University, who have raise funds for us through organising their own fundraising events, society balls, shows, and raffles!

This would not have been possible if we did not have an excellent Career Development team this year, a module offered at Newcastle University. The module gives students the opportunity to develop their graduate skills on a placement, complimenting the skills they are learning with their degree of choice. Using their organisation, communication, teamwork and personal enterprise skills, they have successfully developed our relationship with the students of the University.

Full amount raised will be revealed after the Geography Ball at the end of April!



## Samsung Sponsors our Code Club

On the 13th February 2015, we helped launch the new Code Club at our Blakelaw Learning Hub. S4A have been running Code Club at Kids Kabin in Walker and with the WEYDA group, and are keen to expand coding to all areas where we work.

Sponsored by Samsung, the national organisation Code Club opened their newest Regional Training Centre for Code Club in Newcastle, following successful openings in London and Manchester last year. The launch of the Code Club at Blakelaw Neighbourhood Centre will give local school children access to the necessary facilities and resources to enjoy creative lessons on coding. Chi Onwurah MP was there to mark the opening and see the first session in action.

S4A's Blakelaw Learning Hub runs every Monday and Thursday after-school, we invited the children and young people who attend to come along to try out the 10 new Samsung laptops that they have donated for the Code Club to run.

Laura Kirsop, Managing Director of the National Code Club, said, "Newcastle was the perfect city for our third Training Hub with its thriving technology sector. Samsung and Code Club share the aims and values of S4A. Laura said 'We chose the Blakelaw Neighbourhood Centre because the aim of both Code Club and Samsung is to provide young people from all backgrounds with the chance to learn programming skills. We're in a digital era where coding is not only an enjoyable hobby but a skill that is quickly becoming a necessary requisite for many technology careers. The chance to learn this skill should be open to all and we are well on our way to achieving this reality with two more coding hubs planned to open this year'".





Andy Griffiths, President of Samsung Electronics UK, said: "Samsung is dedicated to creating opportunities for young people across the UK through access to technology and skills development. We are extremely proud to be opening the third coding hub with Code Club in Newcastle today to give all young people in the local area the opportunity to learn and enjoy coding. As well as being a key skill for the growing number of technology careers, these sessions will also strengthen problem solving skills, logical thinking and support key STEM education".

We hope to start the new code club in the beginning of April. Code Club have hosted the first step towards this today, a training session for new potential volunteers!



**Thank You!**

easyfundraising  
org.uk

# Thank you!

We've raised

## £62.43

from supporters shopping online via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and raising donations for free!

Help us raise more! Register to support Success4All at:

[easyfundraising.org.uk/success4all](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/success4all)

That's simply follow the steps to shop and raise.

If you want to find out more, speak to Emily Westall - 07527486048.

Happy fundraising!

Shop with over 2,700 top retailers

John Lewis

amazon.co.uk

im&s

ASDA

tesco.co.uk

AVIVA

Over the past few months, S4A supporters have raised £62.43 simply by shopping via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) when they've done their online shopping, whether that be for clothes, food, insurance, travel and many more! No extra costs are added to your shopping basket, the donation comes straight from the retailer.

Last term we were also a part of the Chronicle Make a Wish Campaign. Volunteers, parents and some of the kids collected a whopping 1,020 tokens! Thank you to all supporters. All money goes towards our £240 target that helps us provide a Peer Tutor, computer and internet access, learning resources and a space to learn, for one child for a year.

# Community

## An exploration of Community University Partnerships

Early this year, Success4All were involved in the organization of the Regional Community University Partnership Event in Newcastle with the national UK Community Partner Network.

Here are the reflections of the day from UKCPN.

*'Later in January we were in Newcastle, where we met with community partners, academics and brokers to explore how to make great research partnerships, and understand better the university landscape. This workshop drew on Cap-a-pie's creative enquiry approach to encourage discussion and reflection on topics of interest. This saw us dancing; drawing; writing poetry; and making hand sculptures – with a view to helping us think through the things that made community university partnerships rewarding and challenging.*

*Starting with a stimulus, delegates suggested words that they associated with the stimulus, which we then used to help us explore how universities and community organisations can work together. We spent some time coupling one of the words we suggested with the word university – so what would the 'family university' or the 'university of secrets' be like? My favourite was created by Andrew Marchant from Mental Health Concern who chose to explore the Family University. He suggests: "Each family creates a website, with*

*university support, to describe the knowledge and wisdom each generation has learned so that successive generations can 'go back' and learn/debate from the other - family wisdom." It reminded me of the wonderful University of Local Knowledge – which curates a range of different knowledges held in individuals in our community. If you haven't seen it – check it out here > <http://ulk.org.uk/>.*



*My lasting feeling from the event was both the enthusiasm and commitment of people who want to collaborate on research – but the huge challenge of finding the right person to get the partnership started. The UKCPN has a guide to help people think this through, and we are in the process of developing a more detailed guide that includes current initiatives.'*

Success4All have worked together with Universities from the beginning. The SCAN volunteering department at Newcastle University gave us our first ever group of volunteers in 2006. Working with Newcastle and Northumbria University is at the core of what we do. We train university students to become peer tutors and club leaders, as we believe that given the right environment, 'Young People Learn from Each Other'. We do not only recruit volunteers, but have worked together on past projects such as 'The Real Translation Project' and 'Spanish Textiles'.

## City Life

The Newcastle City Council's City Life newspaper Spring 2015 edition, wrote an article stating that 'official 2014 GCSE results show that more Newcastle pupils have achieved the expected standard than elsewhere in the country and across the region.' (Citylife Your Council Magazine, Spring 2015, pp.34). Where other school's performance has fallen nationally after the change in how figures are calculated, schools in Newcastle have risen, despite the tougher measures that have been put in place.

However, they are still aware that the educational 'attainment gap' between advantaged and disadvantaged still exists. This gap is still wider in Newcastle than the national average, 'almost 38% of children from disadvantaged backgrounds achieved good GCSE results in 2014, compared to almost 70 per cent of children who are not disadvantaged. This is an attainment gap of 32 percentage points' (Citylife Your Council Magazine, Spring 2015, pp.35).

The Newcastle Learning Challenge are investigating why this is, and will be putting together recommendations about how the gap can be narrowed, reporting back in May 2015, but it was this 'attainment gap' that inspired the Founder Director, Caroline Afolabi, all the way back in 2006 to set up Success4All. The 7 Learning Hubs have been set up in areas of Newcastle that are marked by poorer backgrounds and low academic attainment to tackle the issue.

Through offering flexible and effective educational activities that enhance and extend mainstream education, S4A has managed to support, between 2006-14, 1,473 children and young people and 58 parents with tutoring, mentoring and numerous Clubs. This has been made possible by 486 who have given 24,300 hours freely to contribute to a successful future for all. Every year, we want to keep reaching more children and young people and their families by opening new Learning Centers in other disadvantaged areas of Newcastle in order to narrow that 'attainment gap'. We strongly believe that by offering free to low-cost educational activities directly to communities, we can engage, equip and empower individuals in the community, making them realise that they are in a position to change their social situation and succeed.

### COMING SOON ...

### SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

We have started planning this year's Summer Schools; in Walker Technology College and the West End of Newcastle. The Summer School in Walker Technology College will run from 27<sup>th</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August, and will be focused around STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects. For this reason, we are looking for teachers and volunteers who have STEM knowledge and experience in particular. However, we will still be covering other subjects in the curriculum. If you are interested in being involved in this year's Summer School please email [volunteers@s4a.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@s4a.org.uk).



AQA



Find us at

[www.s4a.org.uk](http://www.s4a.org.uk)



Follow us:  
[@S4ALearningHubs](https://twitter.com/S4ALearningHubs)



Like us:  
[Success4All](https://www.facebook.com/Success4All)