

## Success4All Newsletter

ISSUE 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

It's been a turbulent year with the effects of Covid-19, however we are determined to end 2020 on a high note. Our team are working hard to adapt our services, so we can continue working safely with the families who need us.

We plan to gradually re-open some of our Learning Hubs after the October half term, with an online programme providing support from a team of dedicated volunteers.

Despite disruptions, Success4All managed to reach many families over the summer holidays through our Summer Activity Kits, STAND4 youth group, online tutoring programme, and Guy Readman Rising Stars programme - all of which you can read more about in this newsletter.

You can read all about the kind gesture of Ste's family on page 6.

We also have some fantastic stories featured on the last page including a comic strip made by one of our young people!







#### Connect With Us!

We look forward to the reopening of our Learning Hubs in the near future and seeing all the parents, children and young people, volunteers and centre staff we engage with on a weekly basis. Until then, staff are contactable through email, phone and our Success4All social media – all linked below. If there is anything you need support in, we are here to help during this challenging time. Stay safe – **The Success4All team** 

Email: info@s4a.org.uk Call: 0191 273 2229











## Summer Activity Kits

For 4 weeks over the summer, we delivered 100 kits to homes across Newcastle and North Tyneside. Families took part in daily educational challenges using the resources and instructions we provided. We wanted to make sure children and young people had all the tools to continue learning in a fun way.

We received an overwhelmingly positive response to our kits and they were all very quickly reserved by families. We aim to make our kits even bigger and better and hope to reach even more families in



100% enjoyed the kits and would like to participate in further activities of this kind.





"We loved seeing what each challenge was and what we had to do for it. The kids fully enjoyed it, kept them occupied and entertained for hours. We were really impressed with it and hope we are able to take part in this again, thank you." – Parent

"With my eldest shielding it's been quite difficult getting out to get arts and crafts things and activities we can do together, we thought we had done pretty much everything we could think of. So, this has been lovely for us to do as a family and some great ideas too." - Parent

Feedback following the project has been great, a special thank you to all the parents who agreed to do further interviews.

We hope the kits cured some of that lockdown boredom and you learnt a lot along the way too. What activities would you like to try next time? Let us know on our Facebook page where you can keep up to date with what we are up to <a href="https://www.facebook.com/S4ALearningHubsandClubs">https://www.facebook.com/S4ALearningHubsandClubs</a>

#### STAND4

Since the start of the lockdown period, STAND4 youth group have met online weekly, via zoom. So far, they have had 24 zoom sessions during which they have spent time catching up, discussing important topics, and planning future projects.

### Lockdown Timecapsule

STAND4's first project was to document this unusual time through creating a time capsule with support from Happy and Wellbeing.

Inside the capsule they will place items symbolic of their experiences during the pandemic as well as letters they have written to their future selves.

We plan to bury the time capsule outside our offices based in the Carnegie Building and mark it with a plaque!

### Beach Water fight



We had a blast at the beach! On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September, STAND4 completed a stage 1 'Key' challenge. They organised a trip out for the whole group and developed lots of skills in negotiation, problem solving and organisation along the way.

#### **Postcards**

The group have spent time designing postcards to show our appreciation for the NHS and to symbolize togetherness during this difficult time.



Postcard designed by Aliyya – STAND4 member

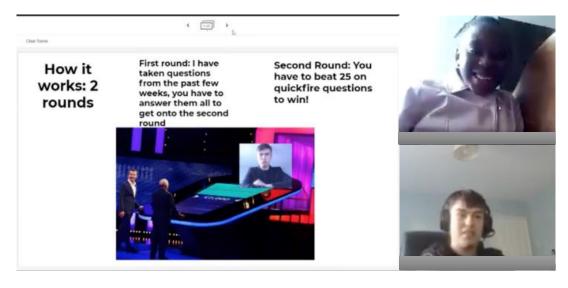
### **Getting outdoors**

Our next exciting project is with Rise NE Satellite Clubs. During this project we hope to develop skills in rock climbing, trekking, canoeing and volleyball over 24 weeks. If you would like to take part, please contact us at: <a href="mailto:info@s4a.org.uk">info@s4a.org.uk</a> or call: 0191 273

## Online Tutoring

Over the Summer holidays we were happy to still be able to provide learning support to some of our children and young people despite the challenging circumstances. This was achieved by running a 6-week trial of an online tutoring service, which we hope to be able to provide on a much larger scale in the near future.

Tutoring was on a 1-2-1 basis, and we invited children who, on their return to school, would be in year groups likely to be taking exams – Year 6, 10 and 11. A total **19** children were able to benefit from the support provided by **19** of our volunteers. Our volunteers did a fantastic job of supporting their tutees' learning and developing their understanding in creative and fun ways.



Jack and Tarry having lots of fun in their online tutoring sessions!

'It was amazing, and I enjoyed it very much' - Learner

'Thank you for this opportunity to tutor online'. 'I enjoyed working on this project - Many thanks.'
- Volunteer

'Thank you so much we are really grateful and appreciate the hard efforts and work.... in times like these with no school and we are not the best teachers at home, it's been amazing, and we've seen much benefit from this, thank you so much' - Parent

'Very professional and friendly' - Parent

All of the children taking part said they enjoyed their sessions, that they were fun, that it made them feel more confident about their learning and helping them get ready to go back to school. The volunteers also said the experience helped them gain new skills.

Seeing the children engaged, focused and enthusiastic was really wonderful and we'd like to say a huge thank-you to you all the volunteers who took part for their hard-work and commitment over the 6 weeks.

## Guy Readman Rising Stars

The Guy Readman Rising Stars project has now come to an end. We thank the Guy Readman family for their financial support and encouragement. The programme was called 'Re-Think Your Potential' and gave young people the opportunity to reflect on, research and evaluate four areas of their life, and then decide on four goals to achieve in 1 year.

#### The four goals were:

- 1) to develop a skill,
- 2) to explore a work sector or a specific career,
- 3) to explore courses for that work sector/career,
- 4) to set academic targets to reach.

Number of young people engaged: 78

Age range: 14-18 years

GCSE students (Yr9, Yr10 & Yr11): **17**Sixth Form Students (Yr12 & Yr13): **61** 

Number of mentors: 10

The goals each young person decided on were listed on top of a A3-sheet and using a tool called Theory of Change, they described their starting position for each of these goals. With the help of a mentor, they plotted the steps/barriers/solutions they took along the way.

We supported them in achieving those goals by: 1) providing opportunities for developing a skill 2) providing access to work sectors or specific careers by engaging former Success4All volunteers 3) arranging visits to high schools, universities and colleges 4) giving guidance in applying to college or university support programmes 4) providing a one-to-one tutor and mentor.





#### We are very proud of all the young people's achievements:

67 took part in one-to-one tutoring and learnt independent study skills.

**48** reflected on, researched and evaluated their skills, interests in careers and courses and decided on 4 goals. Due to having to stop the programme during Covid, some are yet to achieve some of the goals.

**25 of 30** young people in Yr13 gained access to their chosen college/university (of which 7 are Russell Group universities),

1 person obtained a 100% scholarship to enter Sixth Form in a top-ranking private school,

2 young people were accepted onto the 2-yr Aim for Oxford support programme and,

## Ste's Legacy

Stephen White, 51, sadly passed away on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 after battling with cancer. Known to his friends and family as Ste, he was loved by all for his funny, warm and caring character.

"He was very selfless, and always wanted to help other people." Amy (step-daughter) and Kay (partner) recall how Ste was always the first to offer support to make someone else's struggles easier.

We are incredibly touched by the kind gesture of Ste's family donating his funeral donations to support the young people we work with at Success4All. After speaking to Amy and Kay, we learned how Ste was a computer programmer by day, and how he spent most of his free time on his hobby, amateur dramatics. "He was very passionate and enjoyed working with young people to create pantomimes and performances. So, we wanted to support a charity that helped young people and a local one. Success4All came to mind. We thought it was perfect, it ticked all the boxes."





'Ste really believed in fairness and equality with everyone getting an equal chance, so I think he'd really love where the money is going. I saw you do a coding club which Ste would have loved because that's what he did, and he loved computers, coming from being a young boy himself who was never off a computer which later became his work.'

## So far, they have raised £1369.39 by 46 generous supporters!

If you would like to donate, please follow the link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rememberingste

We are very thankful for the donations raised in Ste's name, and for Amy and Kay's thoughtfulness. We hope to put the money into good use by creating educational opportunities for young people from less affluent areas. The money will go towards setting up an online coding club for children and young people to learn about programming. Rest in Peace Ste.

## In the community

# Random act of kindness

Over the summer, we had a very generous donation of a Macbook computer to support one of the families we work with. This kind person also donated £250 to go towards a printer for the family and also one of our Learning Hubs. Access to technology and internet resources is invaluable for young people and their education. We would like to say a very big thanks as we know how much these items will support the young people receiving them.



#### **Alice's Comic Strip**



A very talented young person has created a wonderful comic strip complete with some beautiful drawings. The story line is all about a magic flower named rainbow!

If you would like to read this comic or see similar posts, please visit our blog:

https://www.s4a.org.uk/alices-comic-strip/

#### Support us

In order to raise funds so we can continue running the services that support so many young people in the North East, we have set up a crowd funder. So far, 36 wonderful supporters have donated a total of £1,057. We hope this number keeps climbing and we reach our goal of £2000.

Please support us by donating what you can -

https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/help-usreopen-our-learninghubs?fbclid=IwAR3B5clU3NcYbAmIJ6uCi D1n runlNHmt57TPlAwzGWW7D0oFkryO6fLJuA