#### July 2023

Issue 25

# Newsletter

Latest news and updates from Success4All



Latest News

PRESS RELEASE: YOUTH GROUP AWARDED £25,000 TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ASYLUM SEEKERS & REFUGEES

REPORT: ENGAGING CHILDREN IN STEM EDUCATION THROUGH CREATIVITY CLUBS

### **Hello Summer!**

Can you believe we have come to the end of the 2022/23 academic year?

As this year draws to a close, we're excited to share with you a round-up of everything we've been up to in our end-of-year Summer newsletter - it's a newsletter you will want to read!

In this summer newsletter, you will find:

- Forward from our Volunteers
   Coordinator
- Year Highlights
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Reward Card winners
- Next Academic Year
- Useful Information

<u>SPRING FAMILY</u> <u>TRIPS: "MY MUM</u> <u>CAN'T AFFORD IT, SO</u> <u>IT'S GREAT TO HAVE A</u> <u>PLACE THAT TAKES</u> <u>US"</u>

<u>FUNDRAISING</u> <u>UPDATE: WE DID IT!</u>

<u>MEET OUR TEAM:</u> LOUISE O'BRIEN, HUB LEADER

- Upcoming events
- Ways to Support Us

By the time this newsletter lands in your inbox, we will have started delivering our summer programme, so technically, we are yet to wrap up for the year.

During this time, our small, but mighty team are busy delivering a summer-tastic programme for children and young people in our region, so please keep in mind that our team may not respond to your email or call right away.

One last item, we would just like to thank each and every one of you for supporting us and for sticking by us during this year. We don't take your loyalty and support for granted and we hope to continue building on it.

If there is anything we can do or if there is a conversation you would like to have with us, please never hesitate to reach out.

#### Letter From Volunteers Coordinator, Stella Simbo



This academic year has felt like the proverbial spring after the post-pandemic winter, as we saw the re-opening of our Learning Hubs and with it, the rekindling of the close-knit community that is the cornerstone of Success4All.

Although the school year begins in September, the Success4All year is

beautifully book-ended by our Summer School and last year our

Summer School programme saw the successful introduction of nutritional and mindfulness activities, in line with our ethos of holistic learning that supports the emotional, mental and physical wellbeing of young people as well as their academic achievement. It also allowed us to provide a quality and supportive volunteering experience to some new members of our Newcastle community, who were looking to make use of their considerable knowledge and skills to support others, whilst also further developing their English language skills. The power of collaboration played its part in this, as it was our newly forged partnership with Newcastle's Turkish community (NEDES) that allowed us to connect with and bring on board such committed and enthusiastic volunteers. These volunteers not only contributed to giving the young people we work with a fabulous Summer but several of them continue to work with us as volunteer tutor-befrienders and language tutors.

Volunteers have been at the heart of Success4All since we took our first breath, almost 17 years ago. Young volunteers specifically (aged 15-18) have formed the backbone of our volunteer team, making up almost 3 quarters of those dedicating their time to support us in our mission of preparing children & young people for a brighter future. To say that what these young people do is impressive is an understatement. I'm forever in awe of their talent as well as their generosity in committing their time whilst juggling other priorities such as school, family and friends, as they build the foundations for their future.

Engaging young volunteers and highlighting the many positive impacts that volunteering can have on the mental and physical wellbeing of this group, as well as on their skills development, has been a hot topic in the charity sector this year as we saw this set out by 'Vision for Volunteering', a ten-year collaborative project designed to create a better future for volunteering.

The key themes in the vision are:

 Awareness & Appreciation: The volunteering opportunities we offer develop our young volunteers' awareness of the wonderful qualities that they possess, which they often underplay (such as openness, creativity, a sense of humour, and an interest in others and the world around them), and how these qualities can be applied to uplift others. The appreciation that we show our volunteers extends beyond the gratitude we express, to providing them with tangible opportunities which they can make use of to improve their future prospects; such as the training we offer, our AQA Level 3 accreditation and now the Cope Level 3 qualification, which carries 16 UCAS points.

- Power: Our volunteers are given the freedom to choose from a range of roles and have flexibility as to where and when they provide support. This year also saw the birth of our first 'Volunteer Social Committee,' whom we will be consulting with in arranging future volunteer events.
- Equity and Inclusion: Both young people and those from diverse communities have traditionally been underrepresented in volunteering. However, I'm proud to say that at Success4All we generally buck this trend; with volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds. We're also passionate about creating a sense of belonging whereby our volunteers can not only be themselves but can also see themselves reflected in their fellow volunteers, the young people they work with and the staff members they work alongside.
- Collaboration: We are extremely grateful to the schools, colleges and universities who we partner with for their support in promoting our volunteering opportunities to their students and also for allowing us the time to speak to these young people about the many benefits volunteering can bring, least of all allowing them to make new friendships; build a deeper connection to their community and feel a sense of purpose that does so much to build self-confidence. We have long-standing relationships with St. Cuthbert's Catholic High School, Ponteland High School, Sacred Heart Catholic High School; Emmanuel College, Newcastle University and Northumbria University; amongst others. This year we were thrilled to also strengthen our relationship with Royal Grammar School, and we hope to partner with more secondary schools, as well as further and higher education institutions, in the upcoming year.

• Experimentation: In order to be able to meet the needs of the communities we serve and also survive as a charity, Success4All must continually evolve. Whilst our move to providing learning support online in 2020, is perhaps the most obvious example of our ability to adapt, we have continually refined our services over time in response to our service users. In listening and learning from you, we always strive to place a special focus on the voices of young people be they our volunteers, members of our youth groups or our Youth Advisory Board or attendees to our Learning Hubs, Clubs or Summer School. We hope this encourages them to continue to make use of this voice and recognise it as the powerful tool that it truly is to make positive change.

In reflecting on these themes, the overwhelming feeling I've experienced while attending networking events and reading reports related to volunteering, has been one of pride in not only what we do, but also how we do it. Growth and change are a key part of learning, and whilst Success4All is committed to evolving, I feel it's also important to recognise what we already do well.

Here's to another memorable Summer School, and another year of learning together, learning from each other and building and strengthening the connections which sustain us.

Stella Simbo Volunteers Coordinator

# Year Highlights

SUCCESS 4 ALL CHARITY NUMBER: 1167004 STEM OUTREACH 2022/23 ACADEMIC YEAR

"It made me feel excited to be able to tell my parents what I've been doing"

> HOURS OF STEM OUTREACH DELIVERY

"It helps me with the science we do in school and I wish we could do it every day!"

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY CENTRES COMPLETED AT LEAST 1 STEM WORKSHOP

"I'm going to be a scientist just like you."

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO 

Community Foundation

PUPILS COMPLETED AT

LEAST 1 STEM WORKSHOP

"I learnt stuff in a fun way & I got to

make stuff with friends."

Slides will automatically change. If you would like to download the pdf copy, <u>please</u> <u>click here.</u>

# **Volunteer Spotlight**



#### "I come out of the tutoring sessions and I feel energised by the tutee's enthusiasm. It's great."

Adam is an engineer by day and one of our online volunteer tutor befrienders by evening.

Simply put, Adam is inspiring a future of young learners to overcome barriers in education.

We briefly caught up with Adam to learn more about his volunteering experience and the impact it's having on him.

This is what he had to say:

I first started looking for tutoring opportunities when a friend of mine based in London mentioned she was doing some tutoring and from there I started to look for tutoring opportunities in the northeast and that's when I first came across Succes4All. I started tutoring in person I think it was 2020 just before covid-19, and then since covid-19, I've moved to more tutoring online.

I'm an engineer and I'm kind of a technical engineer so I use my maths, physics and degree on a day-to-day basis. I'm of the mindset that if you can help others then you probably should. I'm in a position to be able to help others with the technical details of maths and physics and I am very happy to do so.

As a volunteer, I'm assigned a tutee for 6-week periods for a 1.5hour session per week. Due to my background, it's usually maths or physics that I help them out with. It can be of an age range of 12 all the way through to 18 so quite different levels to cover with different tutees. Each tutee has areas of strengths and areas to work on, so you need to be adaptable to each tutee and their learning style and ability.

Building that rapport quite quickly is the most challenging. I'm keen to do as much teaching as possible within the 6 weeks of sessions but then I think to enable for successful teaching you need to have that connection and rapport with the tutee.

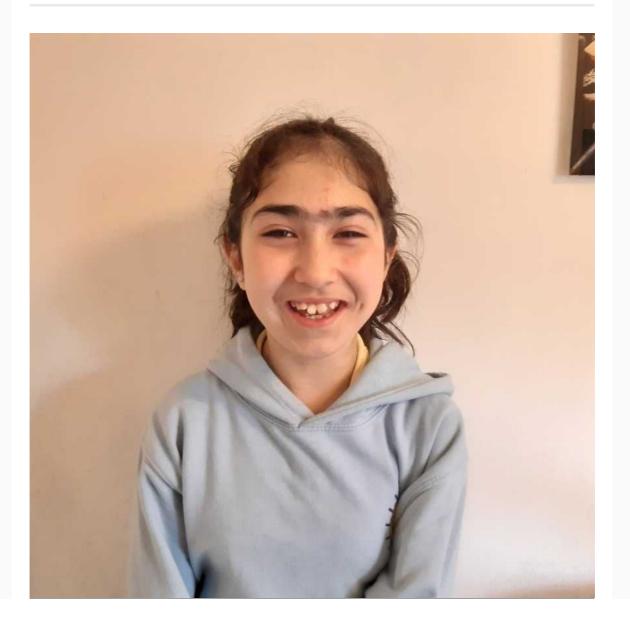
There are lots of rewarding aspects. I've seen some very high flyers, like tutees that are on the path to going to some very good universities and I've seen tutees that have dramatically improved their maths over a 6-week period.

I love the enthusiasm of tutees. I do the tutoring sessions after a day of work and you know, after a day of work you can be tired, but actually, I come out of the tutoring sessions and I feel energised by the tutee's enthusiasm. It's great. The originality of questions, some things we kind of take for granted (as adults) but actually when the tutee asks 'But why is that?' then you really have to challenge your own knowledge and do some kind of learning with them and you research on the go.

It's not a teacher-pupil relationship it's very much a relationship whereas a tutee you're just trying to help them as much as possible and some of that is softer skills stuff, sometimes you have an opportunity to talk about future careers, interests and also just build a bit of confidence where it needs to be built. It has helped me teach in different ways because people do learn in different ways so if you try one approach and it's not quite landing you can try another and work out their learning style. I find it very rewarding just to be helping out individuals.

I totally would recommend volunteering. It might seem as if there's an initial barrier to of 'I did my degree or my A-levels a long time ago', but that comes back to learning with the tutee and I think once you've been through your education once you actually can pick topics back up. It does come back and you can learn on the go with your tutee. I think a lot more people could tutor than they think they might be able to.

## **Reward Card Winners**



This year, our 2022/23 Reward Card Winners are:

- Zaynah
- Sofia
- Saami
- Mohammed
- Julie
- Temitope
- Khatijah
- Favour
- Samiyah

Huge congratulations to all our reward card winners and to all of our tutees for their hard work this year!

All nine winners have received a £20 Amazon voucher.

## **Upcoming Events**



#### **Summer School**

Over the Summer holidays, our team will be running three weeks of Summer School. With lots of STEM activities, sports & nutrition workshops and plenty of trips. We're excited to meet all the young people as well as the volunteers who'll be joining us.



#### **Summer of Youth**

For young people aged 13 to 18, we've planned a 'Summer of Youth'; which consists of at least one free trip a week. To register your young

person, please complete our registration form: <u>Tinyurl.com/S4ASummer23</u>

Places are limited, so please complete our registration form as soon as possible.

## Next Academic Year



STEM In School We have several STEM Challenges available for primary schools to sign up to for FREE. Places are limited, so if you would like us to visit your child's school or your school, please get in touch with us at info@s4a.org.uk



Hubs & Clubs Our Learning Hubs & Clubs will be taking a summer break and recharging for the new academic year. If you would like to find out more details about any of our Hubs & Clubs (Code Club, Curiosity Club), please get in touch with us at: <u>info@s4a.org.uk</u>



EAL In School We are once again pleased to offer schools across the North East with the opportunity to access our 'EAL In School' service. This service is tailormade to fit each school's individual needs. If your child needs additional English support or if you're a teacher wanting to provide your EAL pupils with additional support, please email Caroline at <u>caroline@s4a.org.uk</u> to learn more about our 'EAL In School' offer.

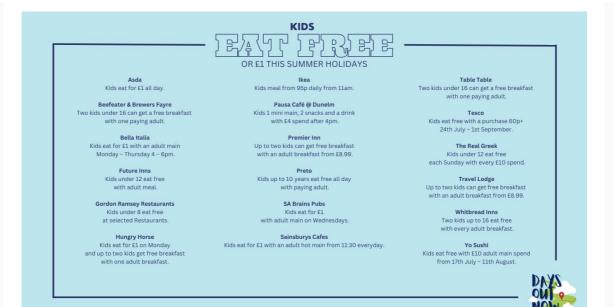


#### **Home Languages In School**

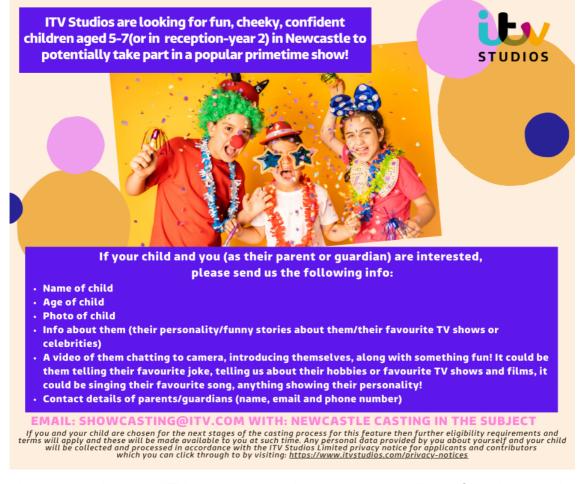
We'll be supporting students to achieve a GCSE or A-level in their first language. We offer support for students seeking to obtain a GCSE or A-level in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Cantonese & Mandarin), French, German, Greek, Italian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, or Urdu.

If you are a teacher or a parent wanting to find out more, please email Caroline at <u>caroline@S4a.org.uk</u>

# **Useful Information**



#### Restaurants & supermarket cafes where kids can eat for free or for £1 over the summer holidays



A popular primetime ITV programme is looking to cast children from Newcastle aged 5 to 7 years old to take part in the show.

Ways to Support Us

If you believe in the work we do and would like to support us engage, equip & empower more children and young people in the North East, please consider supporting us.



#### Volunteer:

We have a range of rewarding and impactful online and inperson volunteering opportunities that are designed to fit your schedule. The more volunteers we can train, the more children and young people we can support. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please email volunteers@s4a.org.uk



#### **Donate:**

Like many charities, we too are feeling the pressure of the cost of living. If you can, please consider donating to Success4All and help us prepare children & young people in the North East for a brighter future.

Make a Donation

## **Connect With Us**

Whether you have a question or you need our support, please reach out to us on any of our social media platforms.





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