

ottinghamshire  
County Council

# Study Support in Nottinghamshire

A Varied Menu of Activities

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This Study Support Newsletter and previous copies can be found on Wired within the "Study Support" folder in the "Extended Services In and Around Schools" community.

## Study Support Team

### Tricia Allan

Study Support Consultant  
0115 977 2817  
tricia.allan@nottscc.gov.uk

Unit Fax: 0115 977 2539

### Contact us:

### Katrina Perkins

Admin Assistant  
0115 977 3163  
katrina.perkins@nottscc.gov.uk

Unit email: study.support@nottscc.gov.uk

### Emilia Watson

QES Development Officer  
0115 977 4963  
emilia.watson@nottscc.gov.uk



## Summer Special

Welcome back ~ We hope you've all enjoyed a relaxing summer break and that the new term is off to a good start. Although Autumn is upon us this issue is devoted to telling you about the wide range of Study Support activities that ran in Nottinghamshire during the schools' summer holiday at Transition Summer Schemes.

## Study Support Transition Summer Schemes 2008



This summer the LA funded twenty nine Study Support Transition Summer Schemes held during the schools' summer holiday to prepare young people for the move to secondary in September 2008. We also supported summer schemes with a different focus at two Special schools and a primary school. All the schemes contribute to Study Support A Varied Menu of Activities as part of the Core Offer of Extended Services delivered in and around schools and participating schools have been working to develop access to Extended Services. Additional schools also held summer schemes with alternative funding and some of the schools listed ran additional summer activities. A full list of schools that ran LA Study Support Summer Schemes can be found on Wired (see above).

General guidance for summer schemes was issued in October 2007 but each scheme was designed locally to reflect the priorities of the family of schools. Some schemes targeted Gifted and Talented young people, others invited young people who may need support at transition due to a variety of factors from social issues such as confidence – perhaps being the only person from a small, rural primary to be moving to a particular school to an identified need for additional curriculum support at Key Stage 3.

As a Local Authority we ask schools to consider and to make particular efforts to include Children in Public Care / Looked After Children. Sue Dean, Corporate Parenting Consultant and the Head teacher of the virtual School for CiPC can give you further advice as to why these young people in particular benefit from an additional input at this important point in their school career.

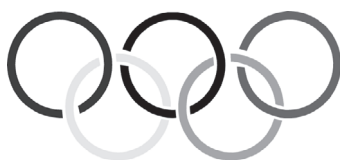
The move to "big school" can be daunting for young people and their parents/carers and evaluations from schools running similar schemes is that these activities can reassure both and enable new Year 7's to get off to a flying start in September.

Responding to feedback on visits we're holding the feedback meeting after the October half term to give colleagues time to see how Year 7 students have settled into secondary school life. At this time, we'll also share information on funding available for 2009 and the outcomes for schools and participants.

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## Visits

With a total of thirty two summer schemes many of which ran in the first week of the holidays we couldn't visit all of you but Tricia and Emilia called in to as many as possible and Adrian from County Youth Arts took his cameras on the road to film activities as they happened. We've been running similar schemes here in Nottinghamshire since summer 2000 and as you'd expect the scale and quality have grown.



At **The Brunts School** the performance in a week for talented artists is a well established part of their Arts Specialism. Young people gather on Monday to explore ideas around a theme and this year was the topical combination of China and the Olympics. They then work with the support of arts specialists to compose, choreograph and write a show that they perform on the Friday afternoon. This year the 44 participants on the summer scheme are being accredited as Arts Leaders and work is underway to build on

participation with a twilight Arts Academy as part of the school's term-time Study Support programme. Visiting on day one saw the young people already working hard in groups to explore dance, drama and music pieces for the final show. Scheme leader, Martin Heartfield explained how Brunts see the fit with developing access to a range of Extended Services, raising standards and delivering Every Child Matters outcomes – the importance of looking at the whole picture and the connectivity rather than a series of initiatives.

At **The Dukeries** there was a change from the seaside theme to much farther a field with aliens and into space. Visitors on day two watched along with colleagues from the college and Children's Centre as rockets were launched before a session in an IT suite to boldly explore via the internet. Invitations to young people were followed up by telephone and each received a pre-course pack with information for themselves and parents/carers including competitions to enter with a range of different tasks and the opportunity to score themselves on just how confident everyone really felt about the move to secondary. Any worries were covered during the scheme and feedback also given to Year 7 staff. A trip to the National Space Centre was a mid-week highlight.

At **Quarrydale** day two was wet, windy and sunny – not the weather but the alternative technologies that a group of over 30 Gifted and Talented youngsters explored. Wind turbines in a range of designs from the Lip gloss girls to the Emo Goths successfully lifted weights, one or two spills did nothing to dampen the spirits of the water powered wheels and solar buggies raced around despite a few summer clouds. Day three was the turn of the Big Green Energy Machine and they've promised us some feedback on how it went so that we can let others know.

**Retford Oaks** went to Hatfield Water Park on day 2 and were back in school on day 3 to take the Three 9's Challenge. Nine different agencies came into school to deliver activities based around their own specialist areas but tailored to inform and advise young people. The Three 9's Challenge is phase one of a four part, ten month, course that continues with activities at The Mill outdoor centre in May next year and culminates in the Survival Challenge at Walesby with a graduation ceremony for successful participants who are accredited as First Responders. This year the staff team at Retford Oaks particularly invited Year 7 students joining the secondary from small, rural schools and eight out of thirty-three participants were the only person from their primary moving up to the Oaks in September so this was a great opportunity to get know staff, the site and to make new friends.

**Kirkby College** ran activities for the children from their Family primary schools at two sites, Newstead Village and the Coxmoor estate. Years 1-6 were invited along to sessions led by Sports Development with excellent support from a Senior TA, and qualified sports leaders who used to be Kirkby students. Sessions were enjoyable and active. When we visited a young boy who is identified as being on the Autistic spectrum was enjoying the one to one attention from TA, Sue, while a group of youngsters were playing team games outdoors.

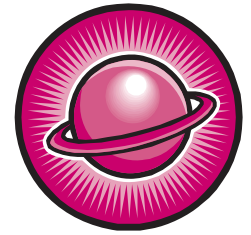
At **Gedling School** over fifty participants were doing a Science Summer scheme. Student mentors included some who were back for their fourth year and a twenty year old former pupil, organisers of the summer school are working towards this being an on going cycle of participants to volunteers and eventually staff. The week long programme included sport, cookery, designing and making T shirts and rocket launches. A particular highlight was the street dance workshop delivered by Joseph Hall Dance which was an especial hit with the boys on the scheme. Scheme leader, Lisa explained that 'Every Child Matters is integrated into everything we do on the summer scheme, when we plan it we think about the five outcomes and how the scheme can contribute'



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At **The Minster School** participants included about half who will be year 7 in September and were identified as would benefit from the extra confidence gained and those who will be in Year 8 in September and were identified as good mentors. Both groups worked together on team building activities, exploring the site, cookery and arts activities. They were off to Old Trafford the day after we visited and had arranged to e-mail questions in advance with a couple of entrepreneurial young men hoping for a transfer scoop to sell on to the tabloids. Tutor groups at Minster are now vertical groupings but each will have at least one new Year 7 student who participated in the Summer scheme and a Year 8 mentor to lead the way.

At **Alderman White**, Caroline, the scheme leader set up a summer scheme blog so that participants and parents/carers could post comments live each evening and the school can respond to feedback. It's another good idea to get evaluations without long questionnaires. Year 10 mentors made sure that everyone was fully engaged and enjoying activities. The literacy focus was delivered with a Space theme – a trip to the National Space Centre being used as the stimulus to an enterprise activity with groups designing greetings cards to be sold on the final day. The winning group is the most profitable and would choose which charitable organisation would receive all the profits.



At **Yeoman Park** two weeks of Special Summer Scheme saw ten students each day able to do a range of activities and trips with the support of specialist staff who know and understand individual needs. Visitors also got to enjoy some cricket bat and ball and to fill the paddling pool on a hot afternoon.

**Wheldon** Summer Alive is bigger and better and all the time. This scheme is completely student run. The scheme leaders are on hand but each activity workshop and responsibility to ensure participants are actively enjoying things rests with student leaders. The programme runs for four weeks with 50-60 young people attending each day. Eight of ten sixth form, Team Leaders attend each day to run activities ably supported by Year 10 Heroes. Team leaders and Heroes receive training from staff. They start planning early, with recruitment in March then weekly, after school meetings to get everything organised, ordered and ready to go. Next year the Heroes will be young people who attended the very first Summer Alive as participants themselves. Involving young people isn't just making Summer Alive sustainable it's building responsible leaders with the experience and training to do it for themselves.

The school also ran Summer Extreme a programme of activities for older students that builds on feedback during term time Study Support activities that for some the summer holidays can be long with not a great deal of things to do or places to go.



**Sutton Centre's** summer scheme has also grown, and this year 60 students attended the Australia themed summer scheme taking over the school complex participating in Australian themed sports, Aboriginal art, computer research, quizzes and teamwork. Activities also incorporated plenty of opportunity to read, write and keep up with their academic skills before the new school year starts.

On the day we visited children explained their new walk to school and which new friends they would meet en route. Groupings for activities created an environment that encouraged planning for the new school year together with new and old friends. Friday afternoon parents/carers were invited to an exhibition of the week's work. Peer mentors escorted parents on a tour of the school and were able to answer questions from a student perspective.

At **Joseph Whittaker** every morning of the summer school started with breakfast and half an hour of reading. Every child received one to one time with a teacher as they read. The 43 transition students participated in a different theme each day which included pottery, cooking and sport. On the day we visited an energetic game of cat and mouse with a giant colourful parachute gave a perfect opportunity for some out door team building. A peer mentor working on the scheme, enthusiastically explained why she volunteered year on year-

"I like helping at the summer scheme we have so much fun, it's a good thing to add to my CV to make it stand out"

At **Sherwood Hall** (now Samworth Church Academy) 28 children attended the summer school as well as staff and a small group of very well behaved dogs! Partnership work with the NHS enabled delivery of a project about a healthy body image / self perception and healthy diet as this was an identified area that school staff thought would support transition. Sixth formers volunteered and the whole school was used by children and dogs on a special treasure hunt.

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**Garibaldi** had planned objectives around improving self esteem with their transition summer scheme this year. Students were identified for them by primary schools and letters of invitation sent to parents/carers. Activities focused around team building and raising confidence. Children participated in orienteering, bowling, cake decorating, trampolining and lots of team challenges but the highlight of the week was a trip to White Post Farm. A spaghetti and jelly bean challenge involved groups of students working together to compete to build the best structures.

At **Ashfield** 40 children and staff demonstrated their creative skills and were assisted by an expert from a local company in designing and making mosaic objects. Each participant made a completely unique piece of mosaic art to take home. Sign language lessons were really enjoyed by participants, 8 students starting in September will be communicating with sign language and children who attended the summer school will be able to practice their new communication skills. The course was so popular that Ashfield are now looking into starting an after school session.

## Summer Schemes DVD

Copies of the DVD made during County Youth Arts' visits to Study Support Summer schemes 2008 will be available for all families of schools to use as marketing for 2009 and information for families and students. We'll distribute to Study Support Co-ordinators and Extended Services Cluster Co-ordinators but if you'd like a copy let us know at the usual address.

**A Feedback Meeting for all Summer Scheme Leaders** will be held after half-term. Further details about the afternoon will be sent to you.

**Center Parcs** has teamed up with First News, an award winning weekly newspaper aimed at 7-14 year olds with an autumn competition. If you'd like to take the whole class to Center Parcs check the October 3rd edition of First News for details information on the web at [www.firstnews.co.uk](http://www.firstnews.co.uk)

## QiSS

This term we are holding two QiSS recognition meetings collaboratively with other LAs in our region. This is so that we can build an East Midlands QiSS network to share good practice more widely. Two meetings have been booked at which schools from Rutland, Northamptonshire, Leicester City and Nottinghamshire will seek recognition.

Meetings are at Corby, Thursday 13 November and Loughborough at Beaumanor Hall on 25th November. Contact us at the usual address if you'd like to attend.

## Advanced QiSS

A one day training and information session for schools preparing to seek QiSS Advanced delivering Leading Edge Study Support is taking place on Thursday 25th September at Scout HQ Linby.



## What's Cooking – Celebration Event

We're holding a celebration event for all the schools who participated in What's Cooking last year on the afternoon of 7th November. Further details will follow.



## Annual Governors Conference

Once again Study Support will be at the Nottinghamshire Governors Conference Saturday 15th November 8.45 am – 3.30 pm at Mansfield Civic Centre. If you're attending please do come along and say hello – If there's a Study Support activity that you'd like to include in our display please send us a short article and any accompanying photos.