



Ambassadors

Aimhigher Ambassadors: The Story So Far...

Aim:

- To encourage more young people in Barnsley to consider Further and Higher Education as an option for them in the future.

In Barnsley we are working to:

- Help young people and their parents/carers to have the confidence to know that they CAN go to university
- Encourage them to achieve the qualifications they need to progress
- Promote the different ways in which young people can access Higher Education
- Support young people and their parents/carers in making decisions and planning for the future

Kirk Balk CSI Week

Three Ambassadors took part in a week long murder mystery from 10th July to 14th July 2006. It was an opportunity for the young people to get a glimpse into the kind of career they may be thinking about for the future, using sciences. It was also a chance for the Ambassadors to answer any queries they had regarding further and higher education. The pupils were placed into three groups, the press, the police officers and the Scene of Crime Officers.



At the end of the week there was an assembly where the culprit was determined. A police officer came in to arrest them in an authentic fashion!



Ullswater Outward Bound Week

Four Ambassadors took part in a week long trip to Ullswater in the Lake District from the 3rd to 7th July 2006. 28 young people took part in the visit, all of whom were undertaking Young Apprenticeships the following academic year in either business or health and social care.



The residential was a chance for the young people—all from different schools - to get to know each other. Five Barnsley Schools, St Michaels Catholic and COE High School, Royston High, Kirk Balk, Edward Sheerien and Priory School and Sports College took part.



The young people participated in many outdoor activities including rock climbing, canoeing and raft building,. They even went on an overnight expedition which involved camping out in the woods and climbing Hallenfell at night. The week promoted team work and leadership skills as well as confidence in the young people and taught them that they could Aimhigher and were capable of much more than they thought possible.

St Michael's Science Day

On 27th June Lisa Corrigan from the Sheffield Hallam University and a group of students visited St Michael's Catholic and Church of England High School to deliver a Science Day.

An 'Information Assembly' about University life and the benefits of further and higher education was delivered to 130 Y10 students. Following the assembly 15 students were given one to one teaching to help with their forthcoming exams. In the afternoon 15 Y8 students received mentoring on cells and electricity to improve their understanding of the subject area.

Kath Bray from St Michaels said "This was an excellent day that I would recommend to anyone who is interested in pointing young people in the right direction and wanting to help raise confidence in order to raise

Aimhigher South Yorkshire

The Aimhigher Celebration Event at Sheffield Wednesday Football Ground on 27th June, praised the success of the Ambassador project. Aimhigher associates from across South Yorkshire were in attendance.



Ian McMillan, the world famous poet and author from South Yorkshire, wrote a poem especially for Aimhigher. Pictured here with (from left to right) Rachel Lister, Sarah Totty, Gilly Gough and Kate Atkinson. On the day he also heard the Aimhigher Barnsley stories from the Ambassadors themselves.

Mentoring and the 3'E's

A number of Aimhigher Ambassadors are working as mentors in schools. Mentors usually work on a one-to-one or small group basis and may be specialists in a particular field, such as health and social care, or a current FE or HE student willing to share their enthusiasm, experience and expertise (the 3'E's) with other young people.

Many pupils and students who have personal mentors feel that it is very beneficial having someone to offer their time as a 'volunteer' to listen to and support them, particularly in the transition from school to college. Some even achieve improved exam results whilst others gain the confidence to Aimhigher than they first believed possible. Mentoring and coaching, training and accreditation is a rapidly growing area of development with special links to University Centres of Excellence

Spotlight on... Gilly Gough

Gilly Gough, 19, an Art and Design student at University Centre Barnsley, has been an Aimhigher Ambassador for 2 years. Recently, Gilly has been working at Barnsley Additional Support for Education (BASE) for two sessions per week, producing art work using a variety of techniques which she herself has learned through her course.

Gilly, from Hoyland, says "I'm really enjoying working at BASE. The students bring their own style to the artwork and I try to encourage them to explore with different paints. They've responded to art really well." Senior staff from the BASE were extremely pleased with Gilly's work, "Everyone concerned has gained from the experience".

Upcoming Events...

- Ambassadors will be taking part in **Open Evenings** in Barnsley Schools where parents and pupils can ask questions and chat to current FE and HE students. The sorts of questions they have been asking are... "Do you have to wear a uniform?" ... "How do you afford to study?" One parent said "If it had not been for Aimhigher my elder son would not now be where he is at University." Ambassadors are able to tell their own stories and suggest additional sources of help and information.
- On **February 28th 2007** Barnsley will be pioneering "**Science for the Next Generation**" the very first such day in Yorkshire and Humber, jointly planned by Aimhigher Ambassadors, Royal Society of Chemists, 7 Universities, UCB, Barnsley College, Barnsley Sixth Forms, Open Road 2 Skills for Health, B&ESY and Barnsley Schools.
- UCB will be hosting **ACE Days and Masterclasses** for schools and are planning **Roadshows**.
- Ambassadors will be going out to a number of Schools and Barnsley Football Club as **mentors** and will be running **group sessions following the success of the programme run at St Michael's Catholic & Church of England High School**.

We look forward to telling their stories in the next edition of this newsletter.

Contact Information

Schools—Do you like what you hear?

If you are interested in involving Ambassadors in your schools Aimhigher events, Barnsley Aimhigher Ambassadors can help!

If you would like more information about any of the above stories, please contact:

Kate Atkinson, Barnsley Aimhigher Ambassador Project Manager at Longcar Professional Development Centre, on **01226 281961** or **720348** or e-mail : kateatkinson@barnsley.gov.uk

Students—Think you have what it takes?!

If you think you have the motivation and enthusiasm to become an ambassador we want to hear from you!

University Centre Barnsley students please contact

Rachel Lister on **01226 644586** or r.a.lister@hud.ac.uk

Students from other institutions or those in employment please contact **Kate Atkinson**, Barnsley Aimhigher Ambassador

Project Manager, on **01226 281961** or e-mail

kateatkinson@barnsley.gov.uk

Thanks to Sarah Totty (Ambassador) for her significant contribution to the production of this newsletter.