

THE DOOR NEWSLETTER

REVISION CAFÉ IS KEY

The end of the school year can often be particularly stressful for young people, with increased testing and exams for most. Even more so for those in year 11 as they prepare for their 'all-important' GCSEs - exams which will often determine the direction that their life will take in the coming years.

Across The Door's youth centres, our Community Youthwork Teams are well aware of the situation faced by these students, and work closely with secondary schools to offer support in a way that works best for the staff and their students.



For 2019 this has included specific revision sessions at The Vibe in Dursley, where in partnership with Rednock School the centre has been open for a couple hours a week during school hours, with a teacher on hand to assist with revision. This has been very popular, and as well as providing academic support has enabled Community Youthwork Coordinator Kathleen and her team to encourage and enable the young people to support each other emotionally; building resilience and even setting up a social media support group, self-titled 'The struggle is real'.

Over at The Pod in Stonehouse, John's team have established revision sessions under our 'Key Café' banner, enabling those in year 11 and above to access the centre when younger people aren't around so they can focus on their study in a more relaxed and chilled out environment. Whilst the team on hand aren't experts in all the subjects being studied, they can give practical advice and support and be a listening ear.

Sessional Youthworker Isak shares the story of two young men that came along to such a session:

"A couple of lads arrived at Key Café looking quite concerned, it had finally sunk in that they needed to pass Maths and their predicted grades weren't good. They were both desperate for help to improve their grades. So we spent some time with them working through example questions, helping them when they got stuck and taking everything at their pace. They were really relieved that we could help them get focused and knuckle down whilst not feeling like they were still at school.

As part of our community youthwork we keep in touch with the staff at Maidenhill and mentioned to them that these two boys had come along. Their teachers seemed surprised - the boys in question hadn't engaged with anything the school had offered them and I think they were getting a bit desperate themselves."

Since that first meeting they've been coming back every week and progress is being made, they even arrived at a Friday night youth club session to do some extra revision!"

Providing safe spaces is one of the key principles of the work that The Door does, and that includes somewhere for a couple of underachieving 16 year olds to get stuck into their Maths for an hour or two a week. For more details about sessions available in your area visit thedor.org.uk or find us on Facebook @TheDoorStroud

8 New Volunteers passed their training



6 parents passed Parenting Courses

28 Young people went Go Karting in Half Term



31 Young people went to Air Hop over Easter

March street collection raised £893.14!



Stroud Tesco collection raised £128.24

CHELSEA'S STORY

"Hi I'm Chelsea and I am on placement with The Door's youthwork team as part of my Level 2 Health and Social Care studies at Stroud College. I came to The Door because I know it well – I used to come to the Stroud Centre when I was younger, and my gran was a volunteer in the shop, so I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of. During my placement I've been helping out in the Stroud Team; taking part in youth club sessions and at events. Goodwill was fun, although it was a bit cold doing the detached work on the streets! I'm really enjoying my it's so great to see lots of young people coming to the centre, and knowing that I can help. I used to come as a kid when I wasn't feeling so great and there would always be someone to talk to and to put me in a better mood. Now I'm on the other side and its amazing that now I'm the one doing the cheering up. Longer term I want to study mental health and psychology and then do a counselling course to become a counsellor. I just want to help people."

For information about placements visit thedor.org.uk or call 01453756745

STEPPING UP TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

In March we were pleased to welcome Sarah Williams to The Door team, as project manager for our new 'Door Step Programme'. After many years of hoping it might be possible and through working in partnership with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group we are delighted to be putting in place a bespoke programme of sessions to support vulnerable year 6 primary school pupils as they step up to secondary school. Sarah says "I'm thrilled to be working for The Door in driving forward such an important and worthwhile project. I'm especially looking forward to supporting the young people in their move to secondary school."

INTRODUCING *illuminate* Stroud

One of the key areas of development in The Door's business plan is developing a discrete Christian outreach project. In January we launched illuminateStroud.

In collaboration with local churches, PSALMS and the Diocese of Gloucestershire illuminateStroud aims to inspire, equip and empower Christian young people to be culture-changers in their school communities through active and open faith in Jesus.

Christian young people often feel isolated and alone, believing that they are in a significant minority, often fearing that they will be judged as narrow-minded or bigoted by their peers. But research shows that not only do over 30% of young people aged 13-18 consider themselves Christians, but the majority of non-Christian young people think Christians are fun, generous and caring. (talkingjesus.org/talking-jesus-dig-deeper/)

illuminateStroud will help these young Christians overcome their fears and think differently about their role within their community; connecting Christian young people regardless of background and supporting them as they grow in their faith.

Barrie says: "I'm delighted that local churches have caught the vision and are supporting us. I am also pleased to have taken on the role of illuminate Director to oversee the project, discreet from the Community Youthwork of The Door, ensuring that contracts with councils and other community agencies aren't compromised."

Visit thedor.org.uk/illuminate or email barrie@illuminatestroud.org.uk