

UNITY NEWS



North Solihull Schools Collaborative

Spring Term 2018

Welcome to Our First Edition!

We hope you like the new Unity magazine we are producing each term to show you what great work is going on around the schools and in the community hubs serving the north of Solihull.

Who are we?

Unity Trust is a collaborative of schools and academies within North Solihull. We work together to enhance opportunities for our young people, staff and the wider community.

We work with a range of partners in order to enhance collaborative activities, services and events for children and their families. These partners support our schools and communities; therefore, we fully recognise the value and strength in establishing and maintaining such relationships. Our partners include those from both the public and private sector.

Parent and Community Groups

In addition to the numerous activities and opportunities available in the Community Hubs, Unity also provide family and community sessions for parents in schools run by Unity staff. These vary on a termly basis depending on local need, but have included art sessions, music/dance festivals, cookery and parent and community groups.

Remembering Those Who Served Our Country!

Our Creative Arts Leader, Sarah Fentham, has been working with children across the schools in North Solihull to discuss the importance of the poppy today and what it represents. As a result the children produced some beautiful displays like the one below!

"In order to affect true social and economic change, we must not only inspire the next generation – we must allow them to embrace aspirations, raising them alone is not enough. They must feel and taste aspiration in a tangible way."

UNITY Leadership Team

Knit & Knatter

Supporting Premature Babies!

Every Wednesday 9-11am in the Hub
at Coleshill Heath School, B37 7PY
Call 07920161408

Anyone welcome!



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Forest School Graduation at Bishop Wilson Community Hub

Forest School Training

Unity's Forest School Leader, Andy Matthews, trained several staff across the schools to qualify for their Level 3 Certificate in Forest School Leadership. Having achieved this qualification they can now deliver forest school activities for their own pupils.

Oaks and Shires!

Over 300 pupils attended Meriden Park for the Oaks and Shires events in November, organised in partnership with Solihull Council. This was to celebrate the national trees and woodland week. Pupils were able to learn about the woodland environment taking part in activities linked to conservation and sustainability. They were able to meet the heavy horse, make natural crafts and experience a medieval scale cottage.

Outdoor Learning & Forest School

Unity Outdoor Learning team offer outdoor learning opportunities including forest schools for all pupils within the Unity group of schools to take part in this exciting way of learning outside the classroom. Forest Schools is a unique opportunity for children and young people in the Unity collaborative of schools to experience an outdoor curriculum.

In addition to work taking place in schools, the team also run a number of community and family activities during the year, including a parent/family group each Wednesday morning at Yorkwood. Other activities include 'Dads & Lads' sessions, community days at the local farm, Oaks & Shires sessions, transition programmes, residential and weekend/school holiday opportunities.

Sports Games Organiser Wins Award

Hollie Williams, the Sports Games Organiser (SGO) for North Solihull, has recently gained the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire County Innovation Award. Her presentation will take place at the SGO Regional Conference. Hollie does a superb job for young people in the area, going beyond school sports and games. She encourages sustained participation outside of school including volunteering and community involvement working with local industry. She works to motivate young people and their families to be more active encouraging them to engage in healthy activities and lifestyles.



Pupils meet the Shire Horse at Meriden Park

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Online Basics Entry 3 Qualification
With Learn My Way

Learn My Way is offering a FREE Online Basics Entry 3 Qualification for beginners, to help develop your digital skills and navigate the digital world! Our staff will support you to register with Learn My Way and complete this course. You will achieve an accredited Entry Level 3 Qualification from City and Guilds, as well as learning how to use these skills to achieve your goals.

Highlights:

- Using the internet
- Using online forms
- Setting up and using email
- Introduction to internet safety

Thursday, 8 February or Thursday, 15 March
09.30 – 12.30 or 13.30 – 16.30

The Community Hub, Coleshill Heath Primary School, Lime Grove, Birmingham, B37 7PY

PLEASE CALL 0121 296 5550 TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

'Supersing' Christmas Concert

The North Schools Christmas Concert was again a huge success supported by local schools, families and the community. Each year it is produced by GTXXTRA and was hosted by Grace Academy to raise money for local causes. This year money raised has gone to support Zoe's Place, a local children's hospice that provides palliative care, respite for families, and end of life care to babies and infants aged from birth to five years who are suffering from life limiting or life threatening conditions.

Armonico Consort Academy Solihull is a choir organised for the community and weekly rehearsals are hosted at Bishop Wilson CE Primary School every Thursday during term time. The choir will take part in the annual Christmas Supersing and in March will sing at the Royal Albert Hall in London! To take part and join in the fun turn up at the school on Thursday 3.45pm.

Hub Events

Bishop Wilson Hub

Mondays

STEPS helping adults with learning difficulties into work.

Wednesday

14 February, 14 March

Help into an apprenticeship

Friday

Maths Skills Workshops

Coleshill Heath Hub

Tuesdays

Parent Support

Wednesdays

Knit & Knatter

Pensioners Chit Chat

Sewing Classes

Thursdays

8 February, 15 March

Half day online Basics

Qualification

Friday

Parent Support

Elmwood Hub

Monday

IT for Beginners

Art Group

Wednesday

English workshop

Friday

Craft Group

2nd & 4th Friday of each month

Job Shop

Fordbridge Hub

Monday

Patchwork & Quilting

Parents Group

Friday

English Skills Workshops

Yorkswood Hub

Re-opening soon!

Should you wish to know more about any of the above or want to offer support to the local community then contact: Sue Watson, the Community Development Manager
e mail: swatson@unitytrustsolihull.org.uk or
Tel: 07920 161 408

*** Look out for the launch of the new Hub at Yorkswood School ***



A very productive patchwork and quilting class at the Community Hub, Fordbridge School

Community Hub Success

A recent report has highlighted that bookings and activities in the hubs have increased by over 100% and even more in some cases. Unity took over management of the hubs from Solihull Council in 2015 and since then they have gone from strength to strength. This has been down to working collaboratively with schools and in particular local agencies who deliver training and support. Such agencies include: Autism West Midlands who support families who have children with Autism; The National Career Service who offer career advice and training; Health Exchange who provide pre-diabetes support.

There are five hubs based in north Solihull to help improve economic well being in our local community. They are based at Bishop Wilson CE School; Coleshill Heath School; Elmwood Place Smith's Wood; Fordbridge School and Yorkswood School at Kingshurst. Each term there will be a feature on each hub starting with Bishop Wilson below.

Bishop Wilson Community Hub

Up until 2016 this hub was often sitting empty but is now in big demand. Each Monday STEPS Adult Care offer help and support to people with mental disabilities get into work. The hub is a regular host to Health Exchange who give pre-diabetes advice and support, and the Children's Clothing Voluntary Group who take donations of children's shoes and clothing and pass them on to families in need of support. The hub regularly hosts Foster Care Training and this year Gro Organic are taking up residence providing job skills advice and support to their volunteers. In addition, the hub supports activities provided by Solihull College who at present offer math's workshops each Friday. This term the

National Careers Service is offering support around gaining an apprenticeship and also training for people who wish to take a half day online basics course and gain a qualification. For further details call: 0121 296 5550.



The Training Room at Bishop Wilson Community Hub

Christmas Art Week

In November, Sarah Fentham, the Creative Arts Leader for Unity, was based in Bishop Wilson CE School for a whole week.

Teaching pupils how to turn art into enterprise she helped each year group to produce products that could be sold at their Christmas Fayre that was taking place in December. Products included ginger bread biscuits; calendars and baubles for the Christmas tree. Very productive!



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our activities

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Some of the items produced by pupils at Bishop Wilson CE school during Christmas Art Week.

Sailing the Grand Union Canal



Pupils from Coleshill Heath School enjoying the outdoors on the canal in November.

Unity Holiday Play Scheme

During the February half-term week, Unity staff and a team of volunteers, will once again be providing a week long programme of trips and activities. They will be based at Bishop Wilson CE Primary School for pupils from neighbouring schools. Look out for further information to follow very soon!

Unity Sport & Leisure Team have been offering a programme of Basic Canoeing Skills, under the supervision of Andy Hodgkinson (qualified canoeing coach). Children learn the various canoeing skills, including forward & reverse paddling, 360 degree turns, draw paddling to the bank, emergency procedures and respect for other canal users. Here you can see pupils from Coleshill Heath School enjoying the activity. All the sessions took place from Catherine de Barnes, Solihull, on the Grand Union Canal route. Children engage in a multi session course and successful candidates receive their Basic Canoeing Certificate on completion.

School Buildings Programme

The North Solihull Primary Programme is reaching a huge milestone. Windy Arbor is enjoying the benefits of a full refurbishment and the opening of a brand new facility for pupils with autism. This is a significant addition to the primary estate and what it offers to pupils, parents and the wider community. At Yorkswood a new school building will begin construction located at the rear of the existing school. Cleverly designed to link into the improved Brambles neighbourhood Nursery, it also incorporates the existing Capitol House building into its campus, due to open soon as a new Community Hub. The new school will be completed by Spring 2019.