

Learning Outside the Classroom Proposal – Using Pupil Premium & Disadvantage Subsidy to Raise Educational Standards

The Ofsted report “Learning outside the classroom how far should you go?” (2/10/2008) reveals that pupils’ participation and achievement can benefit significantly from getting involved with activities outside the classroom. However not all schools and colleges are reaping the benefits because some do not incorporate many off site experiences into the curriculum.

In the sample of schools visited Ofsted found that when planned and implemented well, activities contributed significantly to raising standards and improving pupils’ personal, social and emotional development.

As my role as Outdoor Education Officer I have a clear passion for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) and have seen from first hand experiences the immense and positive impact this area of work can have on the young people of Leicester. Taking learning out of the classroom gives young people with different strengths and learning styles the chance to shine.

Over the past three years I have worked closely with both the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre and a number of our primary and secondary schools. Working in collaboration with school staff we have looked at ways to develop LOtC programmes that link curriculum subjects with outdoor adventurous activities.

The following case studies are just a selection that have received a lot of praise throughout the city and further a field for raising students’ educational standards:

- **Babington Technology Community College** improving the numeracy skills of year eight students using a variety of adventurous activities.
- **Soar Valley Community College** improving boys’ creative writing skills using adventurous activities.
- **Rushey Mead Secondary School** improving creative writing for boys using adventurous activities.
- **Lancaster School** improving boys’ French vocabulary through Orienteering.
- **Shenton Primary School** improving writing across the school particularly for boys using adventurous activities.
- **Crown Hills Community College** improving students Personal Learning and Thinking skills using adventurous activities.
- **Lancaster School** improving creative writing for boys using adventurous activities (**This case study was a regional winner and featured on Teachers T.V.**) and can be found at the following link:

<http://www.teachers.tv/videos/creative-writing-outside-the-classroom>

All of the case studies above can be found at www.lotc.org.uk under the case studies section.

I leave you with this. Think back to your childhood and some of your most memorable experiences of school. I can guarantee that the times when you felt you learnt the most were from the activities that you took part in beyond the four walls of your daily classrooms.

If you would like to discuss different ways your school could use LOtC experiences to raise the attainment of your students please feel free to contact me.

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