

Successful S2 Taster Sessions

A number of very successful taster sessions have been run across our partner institutions as part of the S2 'Try It Out' days. The feedback from pupils and those in attendance overwhelming shows that activities which are fun, interactive and hands on are the most popular. Activities which allow the pupils to take something tangible home with them and which have college / university students assisting with the tasters also rank very highly. It is also important to note that the name given to the session can be a big 'hook' in getting pupils interested. A good example of this is the 'Freaky Foods' science lesson. Below are some examples of these types of tasters which have already been successfully run.

Joinery / Construction:

Pupils get hands on experience in the workshops and make a CD rack / bird box which they can take home at the end of the activity. Pupils are often assisted by apprentices studying at the college which helps them complete the task but also gives them the opportunity to find out more about the course / being a student

Beauty and Hairdressing:

Pupils learn a variety of hair and beauty trips by receiving mini-treatments (such as make-up techniques, hair straightening and curling, learning to put hair up, file and polish manicures etc) from college students and then practicing on each other.

Hospitality:

Pupils get hands on experience in the kitchens and make a variety of foodstuffs including smoothies, pizza, stir-fry, and cakes, which the pupils get to eat / take home with them.

Chemistry:

A 'CSI' taster has been very successfully run, where pupils were given a crime scenario and pieces of evidence and learned the techniques which they would need to help them solve the crime. This included looking at pieces of fabric and powders under microscopes and testing the inks of different pens in order to compare the samples obtained from the suspects to the evidence.

Engineering / Electronic Handskills / Robotics:

Building / adapting a circuit board has been a popular taster session with pupils, where pupils are given all the components and instructions and allowed to build a functioning circuit board which makes noises or turns a light on and off when successfully completed.

Nursing / Health Sciences:

Pupils have learned about some of the duties nurses / medical staff would have including learning to take temperatures and blood pressure (and practicing on each other) and seeing the importance of correct hand washing procedures.

Sparkplug Challenge / Motor Vehicle Mechanics:

Pupils have learned about the mechanical workings of cars and have had the opportunity to learn about components under the bonnet by taking them out and successfully re-installing them, practising how to remove wheels etc.

Science / Freaky Food:

Pupils have carried out experiments using substances which could be found in their own kitchens. Handouts from the sessions also gave instructions for other experiments they could try at home

Sport:

Lots of different sporting activities from football and basketball to fitness testing and instructions and use of the gym equipment (treadmills, bikes etc)

Drama:

Activities involving lots of running around and creative moment. Workshops showing the importance of body language in which pupils had their faces covered by masks and had to rely on their physical movements to get their message across.

Art / Textile Art / Fashion Design and Textiles:

Pupils get to be creative and make something that they can often take away with them

Music:

Pupils were given an instrument of their choice (whether or not they could play it) and were then taught some basic chords. By the end of the session the group was able to perform a well known pop song together which gave a great sense of achievement and also promoted the importance of group / team work.

Outdoor pursuits:

Pupils enjoyed being outdoors and had the opportunity to explore on mountain bikes and learn more about the area.

Business / Enterprise / Team Building:

Pupils worked in teams on a 'Dragon's Den' type challenge during which they had to design a product and work together to 'sell' it to the Dragons. Pupils enjoyed being creative in this workshop but the activity is also tied in to a current TV programme which many of the pupils watch / enjoy and so is relevant to them.

Culture Studies:

Pupils worked to create a time capsule which would tell someone in the future what it was like to live in their local area in the 21st Century. This encouraged pupils to think about their local area and what was relevant to them.