

Case Study

Envision School Team



School: Allerton High School
Region: Leeds
Age range: 17-18 years old
Issue: Healthy living



What issue did they tackle and why?

The students started by looking at a wide range of issues. They explored issues relating to international development, community, sustainable living and bullying. After weeks of learning and discussion the group decided to combine their ideas under the heading “*Healthy Individuals, Healthy Communities, Healthy World*”

What did they decide to do?

The team decided to hold an event called “Shake It” - an afternoon of fun and creative activities to raise money for *ActionAid*.

The team secured a space within the school to hold their event and then set about organising the stalls. Activities included a Fair Trade chocolate fountain, a bicycle-powered smoothie maker and screening of Oxfam short films.

Their event was designed to encourage students in years 7 - 9 to think about the effect that their choices have on their own bodies and the wider community. The team felt that as young people they were particularly able to get the message across to others at their school.

To get younger students contributing practically, “Shake It” also included a “Trash Fashion Show” to raise the profile of recycling. Students were also invited to plant their own seeds, giving them a lasting souvenir of the day and a suitable reminder of the importance of sustainable living.



What is the Envision Schools Programme?

Envision works with teams of young people based in schools and colleges. Starting with the question, “What do you want to change?” teams are supported to investigate issues relevant to their lives as local and global citizens. Led by their own ideas and supported by staff and trained volunteers, teams plan and implement a project to tackle whatever issue they are passionate about - learning to be young leaders and gaining vital employability skills along the way.

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Achievements

Organised a successful event

The team's event was well attended and younger students enjoyed the activities. They worked in conjunction with the school and other organisations to make sure the event was as successful as possible.

Raised money for ActionAid

Through selling chocolate they raised around £40 for *ActionAid*, a charity that the whole team agreed they wanted to support.

Ran a peer education project

The team found ways to make sure younger students engaged with complex and diverse issues by making their activities varied, interactive and fun.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

Event planning skills

The group has learned a huge amount about what it takes to organise an event. They planned their project in a short amount of time and had to work hard to fit their plans around other commitments like exams, while also working with other organisations.

Communication skills

They learned how to communicate their knowledge and passion about a huge range of issues to a younger audience in an engaging way, and to gain the support of their school and external groups.

Team working

Although the team initially had a lot of different ideas, they found a way to pool their energy and resources by uniting them under one banner. By working as a team and including everyone's interests they learned about practical teamwork towards a shared goal.

Testimonials

“Envision is an opportunity for young people to tackle some of the urgent and incredibly depressing problems facing our world; to learn about them in greater detail and hopefully encourage others to realise the potential they have to change things for the better.”

Amareen Afzal, team member at Allerton High School

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