



Welcome to our Newsletter



In this March 2018 edition:

- ⇒ Bookings: special offers for 2019
- ⇒ Keeping costs down
- ⇒ Snow - what happened at the centres
- ⇒ An update on your evaluations for Q3 of this year
- ⇒ News: recent reports that may be of interest and value to your school
- ⇒ Your comments on what we do

Bookings offer 2019

We have vacancies for January & February 2019 at Kilvrough Manor and Woodlands and are offering these at £315 per pupil place, as advertised at the recent Oxfordshire Heads Conference and on Schools News.

If you are interested please contact the relevant centre:

Kilvrough Manor 01792 232743

Woodlands 01497 847272

Don't delay - respond now to secure your place

Kilvrough Lodge self catering holiday let

At Kilvrough we have a superb 3 bedroom Lodge House for rental. You can view the details at

https://www.homefromhome.com/property/416_HH/kilvrough-lodge-parkmill

Come and enjoy Gower, a great place for a relaxing break.



Keeping costs down



We are always looking at how we can maximise the centre occupancy and we are seeking your help with this. If we can reduce the number of unfilled places it means we can improve our income, which can be used to keep course costs down. One way of achieving this is to make sure we adjust bookings to achieve the highest possible occupancy for more weeks. So if you are happy to share with another school that really helps. This means that on occasion we might ask you to relocate to another centre, we wouldn't do this without asking you first and it doesn't apply to every booking, but it's something we will have to consider in the future.

This is an example of how it might work:

For the same week school A books 24 places at Yenworthy; school B books 45 places at Woodlands; school C 32 places at Kilvrough. Total booked = 101 places

If this was rearranged so that school A went to Kilvrough it provides an occupancy of 56 which allows Yenworthy to recruit 30-36 places. Alternatively the Kilvrough school and Yenworthy school could swap, allowing Kilvrough to recruit a further 30-36 places. Either way this would increase the total to 126-132 places —the income benefits of which are huge to the Service.

So with your help this means we can plan to keep the cost of courses down. The question is, are you ready / able to help us achieve this? You don't need to anything now, as we will contact you if we think there might be a better fit. Be assured though, it's not something we are going to enforce

We are working on a not for profit basis, so that we maximise the reinvestment. If we apply the above it means we can focus on keeping costs down, which will benefit your school

80%

.....is the KPI target figure for the Oxfordshire Schools take up of bookings. It's great to be able to report the current figure is over

90%

Thank You

Oxfordshire Outdoors has redesigned its website, you can view this at:

<https://www.oxfordshireoutdoorlearningservice.co.uk>

We would be delighted to hear what you think about both the website and the newsletter and to include your contributions

Snow , snow , snow

The recent conditions certainly provided a real challenge for the centres and visiting schools. The elements of teamwork, character and resilience that we push with our groups were clearly in evidence amongst all staff too. Well done to all for sensible decision making and for ensuring there were no unnecessary 'epics'. Great results all round.



The access to Yenworthy looked pretty grim until a local farmer came to help

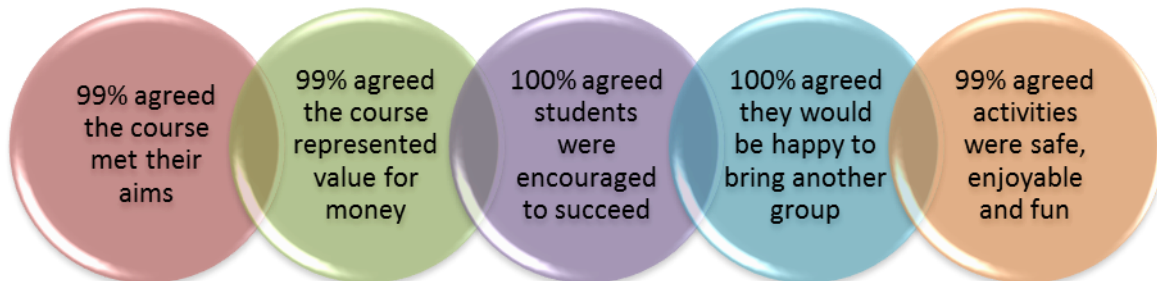
And the team pitched in to ensure the inside was habitable

Meanwhile over at Woodlands a similar method was required to clear out the car park

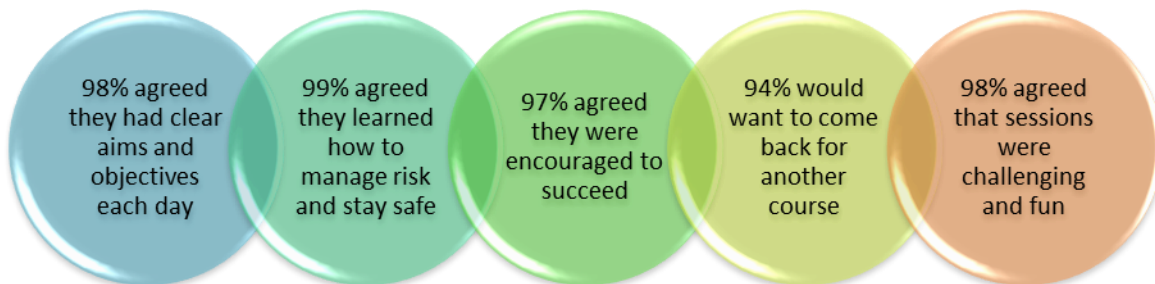


And at Kilvrough ... fortunately the snow wasn't quite as deep as in 1982

This is how visiting staff viewed the Service up to the end of Q3



And this is how your groups viewed their courses



Obviously we are really pleased with your responses, but we're not complacent and we continue to try and provide the best for you. If there's anything that you are not happy with please let us know, we are also really pleased to receive your positive comments too

My son has just come home from a week at Woodlands and hasn't stopped talking about it! Having taken many children there and seen them blossom over the course of the week it is lovely to see your own son relating the same awesome experiences! Thanks very much and please pass on our thanks to your amazing staff!!!

Dear Everyone at Yenworthy

I am writing to you to you to you today. How kind you are, how honest you are and you're so caring. I loved the week; my best things were rock pooling and coasteering and sand surfing and the zip wire especially. My best food was the yummy curry. The dorm was excellent; the mattress was like marshmallows. I recommend it!

Great time discovering more about myself and the benefits to young people academically, socially and emotionally.

I always leave Kilvrough with a positive mind-set, refreshed and ready to encourage others of the benefits of outdoor education.



Latest news



Life Lessons Report – Sutton Trust

This report highlights the recognition among teachers, employers and young people on how important life skills are to the success of young people, exploring current provision for life skills development in state schools and the level of demand for improvement.

<https://www.suttontrust.com/research-paper/life-lessons-workplace-skills/>

DEFRA – Chapter 3: Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing

1. Helping people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces
 - i. Considering how environmental therapies could be delivered through mental health services
 - ii. Promoting health and wellbeing through the natural environment
2. Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school
 - i. Helping primary schools create nature-friendly grounds
 - ii. Supporting more pupil contact with local natural spaces

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Meeting, mixing, mending—an impact study of the NCS programmes

The report provides evidence that NCS fosters greater understanding and integration between 16-17 year olds from different backgrounds, especially those who have lower integration before completing the programme.

<http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/sites/default/files/SocialIntegrationReport.pdf>

The Education Endowment Foundation's latest annual report, covering the year September 2016 to August 2017

The report states:

"There is growing evidence that children's social and emotional skills – their ability to respond to setbacks, work well with others, build relationships, manage emotions and cope with difficult situations – are associated with success at school, as well as positive outcomes in adulthood."

"However, despite a growing interest in these skills, much less is known about what can be done to develop them."

The report says the EEF has so far funded "over a dozen" trials with a focus on social and emotional skills, including "character" education

"Alongside the EEF's core focus on academic attainment, this is likely to be an area of our work that grows in future, including approaches that support students to manage their own learning, and a wider set of 'essential skills' that prepare young people for success in adult life."

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/about/annual-reports/>

UK ACTIVE pledges to deliver on Government's healthy school holiday vision

ukactive is working on a programme this summer in up to 50 schools to pilot a new initiative that targets not only physical inactivity in the summer holidays, but also addresses major concerns over 'holiday hunger', learning loss, personal development and mental health in young people

<http://www.ukactive.com/home/more/10247/page/3/ukactive-pledges-to-deliver-on-government-s-healthy-school-holiday-vision>



Groundwork South

news



For further information about the work of [Groundwork South](http://www.groundwork.org.uk), check out its website.

There are opportunities for schools, communities and families to engage with Groundwork South and to benefit from its work, here's a quick snapshot:

Green Spaces

Our dedicated team of architects can lead the regeneration of parks and public spaces in close cooperation and consultation with communities. We can take control of the whole delivery process from meaningful community consultation and engagement through design, delivery and maintenance of first-class green space projects.

Green Doctor

Our Green Doctors visit homes to provide advice and equipment to help residents and communities to cut their energy and water use, reduce emissions and save on household bills

Green Teams

Our Green Teams transform and maintain parks and green spaces while providing skills training and apprenticeships to young people who are furthest from the labour market

Youth Services

We can deliver specific youth vocational training schemes and have experience running youth centres to help young people develop skills and qualifications and the spaces to follow their interests

To find out how Groundwork South can support you please contact:
Tara.haling@groundwork.org.uk