Computer WORKSHOP

Helping young people to achieve their potential
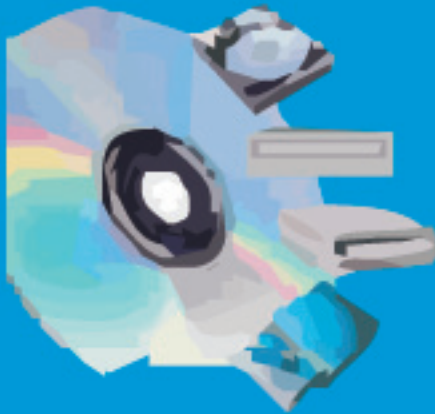
Computer Workshop- a new "education otherwise" provision that will provide a holistic approach to meet the needs of young people attending, to ensure that their needs are met and enable them to reach their full potential an ensure their sustainability in the project. This exciting innovative project will provide an opportunity for young people to develop their self esteem, confidence and build a sense of achievement whilst gaining nationally recognised qualifications. This will be achieved by teaching young people to maintain, repair and ride motocross bikes in a safe and stimulating environment; as well as gain recognition for developing their transferable skills.

The concept of forming a project of this kind started in 2004 after many years of working with young people in Bedfordshire. It became apparent that many young people were totally disengaged and disillusioned with education through exclusion, lack of provision, personal choice and offending behaviour; this then led to social exclusion.

Computer Workshop will not only be an educational provision but a diversionary project for offenders and those at risk of offending. Computer Workshop is preventative, engaging with young people who are considered to be in a high risk category; diverting them away from anti social behaviour, offending, and truancy.

Computer Workshop will provide an alternate, vocational curriculum that will enable young people who were achieving no qualifications in mainstream school to achieve qualifications. A flexible rolling programme that will cater for young people who have offended or are receiving support from the local authority through Children's Services. This will ensure that they will gain recognition and accreditation for the work they achieve.
The rolling programme will also give accreditation opportunities to young people who are unable to cope with the pressures of mainstream education due to SEN. The nature of the rolling programme will enable young people on part time timetables to achieve a vocational qualification where they may not in mainstream education.

The staff running the project collectively has over 45 years of experience working with challenging young people in a number of different setting and 20 years experience of computers. They have gained this through working for social services in a number of counties, fostering and outreach support, residential, youth offending, nursing and mental health. Technical knowledge has been gained through employment in the IT sector.

"Young people who have entered the care system in the last five years were significantly more likely to have a part time or no ETE arranged."

-YJB: Barriers to engagement in Education, Training and Employment 2006

"Young People not attending education provision are more than twice as likely to commit offences than students in education."
-Ref: Youth Justice Board 2005
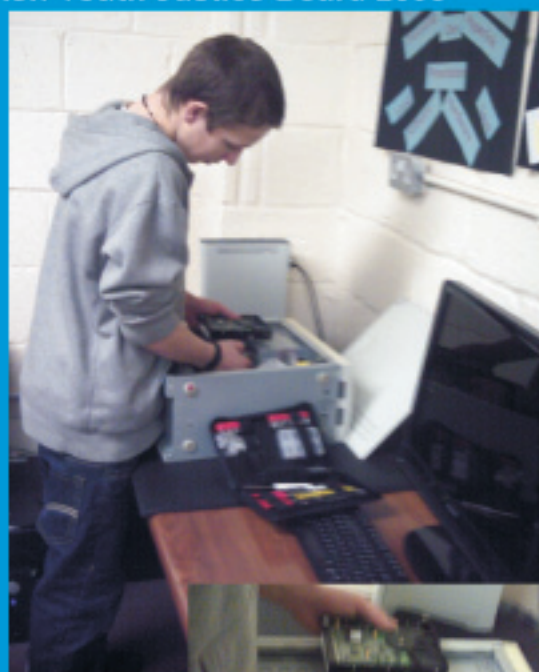
Young peoples Comments and Views on the Computer Workshop

'I like it at the computer workshop because I'm treated like an adult and can be left to my own accord. I turn up every week to the Computer Workshop because I enjoy what I'm doing and I pay attention because this is something I'm interested in doing when I leave school. I succeed in the Computer Workshop because it is enjoyable and I know exactly what qualifications I am going to achieve if I try hard'. - Mark Trott

'I like coming here because I know I'm getting something out of it. They treat you with respect here. I succeed here because I put effort into my work and I enjoy what I'm doing. The work here is a lot different to the work at school because you are learning about one subject rather than loads of subjects all at the same time. When I start work I would like to either run my own business or work for Microsoft and the skills that I'm learning here will help me to achieve that.' – Tino Podesta

'I like to come to the computer workshop because it is a good place to learn. The teachers are great they will listen to you first. Plus they treat you like Adults. I love to come to the Computer Workshop. When I leave school I will either be able to go on to further education or stand a better chance of getting a good job and the achievements I will get from the computer workshop will help me do this'. - Moison Khan

'I enjoy my time here at computer workshop, it is a lot different to what I have to do at school. There are less people to work with and we can work at the rate we want to. At school I was told about this computer course and after putting my name down I was given the forms to fill out and then at the start of the school year I started coming here one day a week. At computer workshop I study 4 parts of the City and Guilds Computer Maintence and Repair; this includes health and safety, installing software, parts of a computer and customer care. This course is different from school as it is more relevant to what I want to do with my life. After I have finished my GCSEs and my A-levels I plan to start working in the computer business starting off selling then software design'. - Michael

Courses Offered for the Young People

Computer Workshop offers nationally recognised qualifications in several subject areas and are accreditied centres of approval for the following awarding bodies.

AQA
Various AQA qualifications relative to computing.
Preparing for Working Life.
Personal, Health and Sex Education.

City & Guilds
Level 1 Fundamentals of computing systems and customer care (7266-111)

Level 1 Dismantle, assemble, install and maintain a desktop computing system (7266-102)

The overall aims of the project are based on 'every child matters' and will strive to ensure that the young people attending the project will:

Stay safe
Computer Workshop will provide a safe environment for young people to learn in. The young people will be safe as they are engaged in a constructive use of their time whilst on the project. Computer Workshop will provide all safety clothing and equipment that the young people need.

Enjoy & achieve
Computer Workshop will provide an environment where the young people can achieve qualifications whilst engaging in an activity that they enjoy, as well as gain transferable skills.

Make a positive contribution
Computer Workshop will be a diversionary project that will deter young people from offending, anti social behaviour and truancy. The young people will be encouraged to develop positive relationships with other young people and staff on the project

Achieve economic well being
Computer Workshop will provide a sound basis for young people to move into further education or employment and will ensure that the young people are ready for this through experience and qualifications.

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Contact

01234 358638 0776990 0911
info@xers.co.uk
www.xers.co.uk
49 Brunel Road
Bedford
Mk41 9TJ

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This brochure was made by young people currently attending the Computer Workshop