Big Society/Active citizenship projects 2012 in focus

Project:	Working with the Salvation Army to provide food parcels to homeless people
Date and venue:	Tuesday 26 June 2012 Bramwell House Lifehouse, Heaton Street, Blackburn
Project summary:	After creating lists of suitable foods, the students purchased the items and then packaged them together as colourful, visually appealing food parcels. The parcels were distributed at the Salvation Army premises, where the students had chance to talk to residents about their experiences and were given a tour of the building to see the important work taking place there.
Project aims:	To create and develop understanding of the issues of homelessness, learn more about serving the community and appreciate how fortunate many of us are in life.
Highlight of the day:	Turning around student preconceptions that the accommodation would be grimy and uninviting.
Pupil reflection:	"The project allowed us to explore ideas about people less fortunate the us and it allowed me to feel grateful for all the goods that I've been given. The main role I need to play now is to be a good ambassador and do many things to ensure the needs of my community are filled." Ammaarah Mulla

Project:	Raising awareness among primary schoolchildren about the Olympic and the Sports Relief charity

Date and venue:	Tuesday 26 June 2012
Project summary:	The students introduced the concept and ideals behind the Olympics to the primary schoolchildren before playing netball and other games and activities with them. In addition, fruit sticks and juices were given out, to promote healthy eating.
Project aims:	To raise awareness of the values of the Olympics, promote community cohesion and encourage healthy lifestyles.
Highlight of the day:	Watching the children take part in activities that utilised teamwork and other Olympic-related attributes.
Pupil reflection:	"I thought it was a great idea to bring all the children together and make them more aware about the Olympics and of the importance of keeping fit and healthy." Juwairiyyah Desai

Project:	Sports in the community
Date and venue:	Monday 25 June 2012 Brookhouse Primary School and TIGHS
Project summary:	The students took part in a range of Olympic-based activities with the primary schoolchildren before returning to school to present their thoughts on the day to classmates.
Project aims:	To bring people of all backgrounds together to take part in enjoyable, fun activities.
Highlight of the day:	Making new friends and presenting the primary

	schoolchildren with awards at the end of the day for their efforts.
Pupil reflection:	"It went just as planned and we had a lot of fun. We got to make new friends and work with people that we don't normally work with." Zainab Rangila

Project:	Race for Life and raising awareness about cancer
Date and venue:	Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 June 2012 Witton Country Park and Daisyfield Primary School
Project summary:	In order to raise money for cancer research the students took part in the Race for Life event at Witton Country Park, gaining sponsorship for their efforts. The day before the students visited a local primary school to present a workshop on cancer research with Year 5 and 6 pupils.
Project aims:	To raise awareness about the important cancer research work taking place, the number of people affected by the disease and to play an effective role in supporting Cancer Research's work.
Highlight of the day:	Gaining an insight into the lives of real people affected by cancer, prior to the race, and being part of the atmosphere while running for this worthwhile cause.
Pupil reflection:	"The friendly and warm atmosphere while doing the race was inspiring and gave all of us together real strength and courage to fight for the finishing line." Akifah Patel

Project:	Raising awareness among special schoolchildren about Autism Spectrum Disorder and how this impacts on learning
Date and venue:	Tuesday 26 June 2012 Oakfield House Special School
Project summary:	After meeting a young adult in the community who displayed certain behaviours, the students discovered she had ASD and so arranged to visit Oakfield School to observe children with the disorder. The students spent half a day with a class and took part in a range of activities with the children, had a tour of the school and held a Q&A session with staff.
Project aims:	To increase awareness and understanding of issues surrounding Autism and how these impact on learning, as well as advocate the valuable service offered by NAS.
Highlight of the day:	Observing the excellent facilities such as the sensory rooms and taking part in the specially arranged activities developed for the children.
Pupil reflection:	"The visit has proved to be a really interesting revelation about Autism and how important it is to learn through play and not just through books. It has really inspired me to follow a career with SEN children in the future." Juwairiah Qadar

Project:	Health and fitness – aerobics
Date and venue:	Monday 11 June 2012 Galaxy Centre, St Michael's and St John's Primary

	School
Project summary:	The students attended an aerobics session to find out more about the benefits exercise such as this can offer. In order to raise public awareness about healthy lifestyles and promote aerobics as a form of exercise, the students wrote an article, which was published in a local newspaper.
Project aims:	To learn more about how aerobics can contribute to a healthy lifestyle and then raise awareness about this by encouraging people to become more active and take part in local classes.
Highlight of the day:	Attending the aerobics class and interacting with members of the community.
Pupil reflection:	"We worked well as a team, took responsibility and worked hard to achieve our aims. Overall, we increased our knowledge about health and fitness and the campaign was a success." Humairaa Dudhwala

Project:	Fundraising event for the children of Syria
Date and venue:	Saturday 23 June 2012 Westbrook Community Centre, Blackburn
Project summary:	In order to raise money for the children affected by the Syrian uprisings a fundraising event was held, attended by members of the community who generously donated much-needed money.
Project aims:	To raise awareness about the Syrian refugees, take informed and responsible action and to bring people from the community together in the name of a worthwhile cause.

Highlight of the day:	Meeting many different people from the community, making them aware of the horrific happenings in Syria and raising a huge amount of money.
Pupil reflection:	"Everybody contributed well and worked extremely hard to make the fundraiser a great success. All of the team members had a fantastic experience and would love to work with the community again." Humairah Hanif

Project:	Help a child smile – cleft lip awareness campaign
Date and venue:	Tuesday 27 June 2012 TIGHS
Project summary:	To inform people about cleft lip the students produced information leaflets and made and sold cakes to raise money for a charity that funds surgery for children with the condition.
Project aims:	To raise awareness about cleft lip and raise money to help those with the deformity lead a normal life.
Highlight of the day:	Selling enough cakes to raise the money to treat eight children, including one individual donation of £600.
Pupil reflection:	"I thought it went extremely well considering our target was to raise enough money to treat one child. The project was very successful and all our hard work paid off." Ammaarah Akhtar

Project:	Seeds for Africa charity primary school visit
Date and venue:	Monday 26 June 2012 Daisyfield Primary School
Project summary:	The group spent two hours with a Year 6 class at the school to inform them about Seeds for Africa and the children helped by the charity. The children made a collage from African flags and a quiz was held at the end of the session.
Project aims:	To inform the children about the charity's work and increase understanding so that they too may wish to become involved.
Highlight of the day:	Seeing the children engage so well in the challenging wordsearch activity and judging the brilliant collages they had made from African flags.
Pupil reflection:	"The children found the lesson interesting and the collage activity went very well as the students took it seriously and became competitive." Ilhaam Umerji

Project:	Transition – the big change!
Date and venue:	Monday 25 June 2012 Rhawdhatul Uloom Primary School
Project summary:	To help allay the fears that many Year 6 pupils have in anticipation of starting high school, the group visited the school to speak to the pupils, discuss the concerns they had and offered tips on

	how to make the transition to high school.
Project aims:	To raise awareness about the transition, explain the positives about moving to a new school, and distribute a booklet containing useful information.
Highlight of the day:	Being told by many of the pupils that they were in fact excited about starting their new school at the end of the session.
Pupil reflection:	"The presentation on transition was very helpful because we learnt a lot of key things about what to do before starting high school, and that it's important to be yourself." Tayubah

Project:	British Heart Foundation workshop
Date and venue:	Tuesday 26 June 2012 St Silas Primary School
Project summary:	In order to teach the primary schoolchildren important messages abut the importance of healthy eating and keeping fit the group undertook a presentation about healthy food, led a fitness workshop and then organised a treasure hunt to test the children's knowledge.
Project aims:	To teach children about the importance of a healthy heart and about how to stay healthy and keep fit.
Highlight of the day:	Taking on the role of a teacher and being called 'miss', making new friends and having fun with the children.

Pupil reflection:	"The time we spent with the children was beneficial and we felt as if our aim of teaching them about keeping fit was definitely fulfilled." Humayra Master