

Longridge & Shaw Heath (Knutsford) business support group

Spring
2014

Ready for take-off at the High Flyers' Academy

Manchester Airport is proud to be one of the first companies to be awarded an Employer Ownership of Skills grant. The funding for £1.36million has allowed them to expand their existing education and community programmes to benefit young people during 2013 and into 2014.

An example of their initiatives took place a few months ago, when 30 high schools (including 40 students from Knutsford Academy) joined them for a day in the Concorde Hanger to learn more about careers at Manchester Airport.

The events gave 1000 young people the chance to be hands-on, engaging in interactive tasks with 100 airport colleagues working in the engineering, environment, customer service, retail, airfield and fire services.

Of the young people attending, 86% rated the event as good or better and many were inspired to think about the airport as a career destination.

One student said afterwards: "I am now interested in being a retail manager," while another stated: "Just being here was amazing - I really loved finding out so



much about how an airport works, and I enjoyed every bit of it!"

Teachers had the opportunity to join in for professional development, learning more about the apprenticeships and graduate schemes, and representatives were also there from Manchester Metropolitan University to offer advice on making university applications.

They gave fantastic feedback, saying that it opened students' eyes to different career paths.

Community clean-up leaves St John's sparkling!

Local residents and partners from Great Places Housing Group, Cheshire East Council Streetscape, Community Spirit, Knutsford GROW, David Lewis Centre, Oil Recruitment, Manchester Airport, BEACON, Peaks and Plains Housing Trust, Knutsford Town Council and the Environment Agency came together to remove tonnes of fly tipping that had accumulated in the ancient St John's Woodland on 27th February.

A hearty meal at the Welcome Café, funded by Tatton Estates, warmed the cockles, before teams carried on with the hard graft to clear this space. They did a great job and their efforts were much appreciated!



In the party spirit!

Great Places Housing Group's Christmas party at the Falcon Bearer pub went with a swing on December 16th, with residents enjoying a hearty Christmas buffet provided by the Welcome Café, Christmas carols from the children of Manor Park Primary School, a round or two of bingo with the Welcome Youth group and a bumper raffle with prizes and luxury hampers from Sheldons Dairies and Amphorea Packaging. The event was staffed by partners and volunteers from Bentley, who made sure everything went smoothly, and the residents loved singing, dancing and generally getting in the festive spirit!

Figuring out the perfect approach to Numbers to Work

Twenty eight year-five pupils from Manor Park Primary School were lucky enough to take part in a Numbers at Work event delivered by Manchester Airport, Barclays Bank, Great Places Housing Group, Cheshire East Council and Tatton Park recently.

The session, which saw the partner organisations coming together to focus on having fun with numeracy, was a huge success, with 100% of pupils rating the morning as brilliant or good, and all pupils saying they understood more about numeracy as a result of the session.

Barclays did particularly well, with lots of children citing saving money as the most important lesson learnt!

John's trip to school adds up to success!

Costain's Community and Liaison Manager John Williams talks about his experience of the Numbers at Work initiative at Manor Park School.

I was made to feel very welcome at Manor Park Primary from the minute I stepped in the door and as other people arrived, I noticed a theme developing – many were in fancy dress for the event, including the head teacher and many other members of staff!

We were put into groups, and I was made a team leader for the morning. What struck me most was the mixed abilities of the children.

My group really enjoyed the Tatton Park task dealing with the measurement of a shire horse using the old fashioned 'how many



hands high' system, but the task that went down best was Cheshire East Council's 'design a playground' scenario, as they all had fixed ideas of what made for a good park area.

Overall it was a most enjoyable event. I certainly felt that I had contributed to the children's understanding of maths and how it is applied in everyday situations!

Pupils land their perfect placements

Seventy two students from Manchester Enterprise Academy and Knutsford Academy were invited to take part in a half-day job-shadowing opportunity at Manchester Airport recently.

Thirty five hosts from ten different organisations took students into the heart of the airport and showed them their roles, talking about the skills and qualities needed to do their jobs.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who made the great day possible.



Superb scarecrows make for Tatton treat!



Families from Longridge and Shaw Heath were the special guests of Tatton Park on Sunday 16 February, where the 'Wild and Wise' scarecrows they had made as part of a series of workshops with Tatton Park and Great Places Housing Group at The Welcome Café were displayed in pride of place. Themed around Aesop's Fables, their creative masterpieces formed part of a garden trail made up of nearly 80 scarecrows, and hundreds of visitors enjoyed them over the half-term week. The families also enjoyed a trip around the farm as part of their visit, and a great time was had by all.

