

Collingwood College & Cordwalles Junior School

Happy Puzzle Transition event



Organisation

Collingwood College & Cordwalles Junior School, Surrey Heath Confederation of Schools

Target Group(s)

Yr 5 and 6 Cordwalles students working with Yr 7 Collingwood students

Context

To run a Happy Puzzle workshop for yr 5 and 6 students transitioning to Collingwood College and yr 7 Collingwood students. The project aimed to achieve the following outcomes for participants

- 1) Increased confidence learning new skills in an unfamiliar context with external instructors
- 2) Increased ability to work effectively as part of a team.
- 3) Raised self esteem through successful participation in an informal learning setting
- 4) Improved social interaction in a learning environment.
- 5) Able to share new skills by acting a 'play leader' for other pupils
- 6) Increased ability to use applied thinking skills
- 7) Boosting confidence and raising their expectations of what they can achieve in the classroom.

Action planned

The day was split into several workshop sessions with approximately 40 students per session. The sessions were made up of yr5, 6 and 7 working together. Within each session the groups split into groups of 5/6 children to work together on a specific challenge. The sessions ran to the following schedule: 9-10; 10.30-11.30; 11.30-12.30 and 2-3 and were led by the Happy Puzzle tutor with support from class teachers and TA's. Collingwood Library was used to host the workshops and therefore presented Cordwalles pupils with a supplementary visit to the school many of them will transition to. The Happy Puzzle event was a great opportunity for both primary and secondary children to use negotiation and other teamwork skills to solve some very challenging puzzles together.

Outcomes and Impact

The day was a great success! The students thoroughly enjoyed it and Year 7s particularly enjoyed being the 'grown-ups' for the day. For year 5 and 6 students it allowed them to meet and interact with Collingwood staff and students as well as start to familiarise themselves with the college environment. Students worked well together in their teams and the challenges were stretching for all who participated.



The children all thoroughly enjoyed the day, and definitely found the tasks challenging. Below are some quotes from the children.

"The spinning disc was really strange; it made me think as I was not sure what to do at first."

"It was exciting because you got to do lots of different puzzles"

"At first we didn't think all our team would work together, but some of the new people proved to be helpful"

Next Steps

Continued development of transition events between Cordwalles and Collingwood with the delivery of the Aztec project for Yr 6 students as well as the forthcoming wellbeing workshops also aimed at Yr 6 students helping to develop strategies to deal with periods of change.