

Kesgrave 'Hangout' has enabled 10–14-year-olds to come together to have fun and spend time in a safe and supportive space. Sessions run every Thursday evening between 5.30-8.30pm. Trained Youth Workers and volunteers build relationships with the young people through planned activities, the use of the hall's resources and chat and chill time. The Youth Team aim to provide a nurturing space where young people can consider their choices, build knowledge and be heard.

The young people particularly enjoy cooking sessions, quizzes, basketball, pool, competitive challenges and getting outside to run off steam. We also have debates, explore current issues and topics relating to young people. We recently celebrated Valentine's Day by looking at healthy and unhealthy relationships, Chinese New Year enabled young people to try new food and learn about different cultures and games night allowed young people to demonstrate positive sportsmanship and effective communication skills.

The sessions have enabled young people to build friendships across year groups and support the transition from primary school to high school. Furthermore, the sessions only ask for a 50p entry fee therefore being inclusive to the whole community. Parents have thanked staff for offering a welcoming space to get their children out of the house and taking the pressure off them as the sessions ensure that young people are being monitored but also given freedom. Young people have shared that they struggled with social isolation throughout COVID and this has had an impact on their confidence and emotional well-being. Therefore, the Hangout has given them a space to find peer support and friendships, have fun and try new things. Young people have shared that they now have friends in different year groups and schools and this has been very helpful for some of the younger students as it has offered a 'buddy system'.

The Hangout also aims to offer opportunities to young people that may be out of the age range of the sessions. We have a programme of Young Leader's aged 15 that help staff with planning sessions, setting up, running the tuck shop, DJing, checking resources and stock, welcoming new young people, demonstrating appropriate behaviour and promoting the sessions. By offering a Young Leader Programme it enables positive endings, something for a young person to add onto their CV or college application and a sense of ownership.

4YP will also be out in the streets on Kesgrave from the first week of April. Detached Youth Workers will engage with young people, build relationships, promote 4YP services and explore any concerns and issues from the wider community. Through informal education 4YP hopes to bring the community together by ensuring that young people are being heard and supported to engage in positive citizenship.

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