

LEADERS OF TOMORROW

SUE BARNES

'Absolutely brilliant! I have never experienced a course like this!'

(Facilitator: Bolton)

The first schools and organisations to host the student leadership course: *'Students of today; leaders of tomorrow'* supported by NCSL and delivered by UFA and CSV are finding the experience of real benefit to their students.

'I now feel I am a leader who can take charge of a situation with anyone in any place. I have gained many different qualities for example, empathy, confidence and control. I have come out of this course as a much better leader.'

(Student: Liverpool YPP)

The course was launched in Northamptonshire at Magdalen College School, in February 2007. It is a three-day intensive, interactive experience where young people in Key Stage 3 can develop their personal skills, their confidence and their leadership skills. Up to 100 young people can come together to work in small groups of 15 with one or two trained adult facilitators who support them with a range of activities and resources co-developed and written by young people in London.



The course is based round a challenge framework that asks the young people at the end of the course to present the *'what's in your leadership tool kit'* and *'how are you going to use it in the future?'*

The adult facilitator explores the learning processes with the group and throughout the three days offers opportunities for the young people to take the lead, coaching them where necessary to be able to do so.



'Very useful all pupils have learnt and (gained) new skills'

(Adult facilitator: Bolton)

Judging by the response from the students, the course was excellent – hopefully much good work will go on in Liverpool schools as a result of this. (Organiser: Liverpool)

During the course the young people experience applying for a grant for a project to run in the school or community and receiving feedback, understanding more about the roles they can take on as a student leader in the school and community, debate their views on youth leadership, assess bids and give feedback on them and experience an interview with a 'Headteacher' where they have to get their points of view on a particular issue across.

So far each organisation we have worked with has brought along additional adults, so that the young people's experience is very real for them.

In Northampton the newly appointed Headteacher attended most of the course held in half-term and completed it feeling he had learned an awful lot from the young people, especially during their role-plays which were based around issues pertinent to them.



At the course in Liverpool, members of the Youth Parliament presented bid applications to the Deputy Manager of the local 'Compac' who was so impressed with one of them that he immediately offered them funding to 'work up' and carry out their proposal.

"Important things I have learned: - never give up – always see it through. Sometimes your ideas are not going to be chosen. Sometimes you need to step back a bit to get activities done."

(Student: Bolton)

In Bolton, where Derri Burdon, the UFA Partnership Manager, organised a course for 96 young people from 8 schools, members of the local NRF and Children Services team were



for referring to afterwards. At the end they also receive an attendance certificate and a copy of the UFA/CSV book: '20 ways to be a student leader' to help them with their leadership activities after the course.

The schools and organisations who have taken part so far have been brilliant at finding real opportunities in schools and local communities for the young people to demonstrate and practice their skills after the course.

invited along for the young people to present their bids to. They were very impressed with the resource materials that the young people used and with the quality of their presentations. These bids made by the students will now also be used as a training model in Bolton to train adults and young people in future about how to make bids.


'Now I feel I can take on more responsibilities outside and inside school':

(Student: Northamptonshire)

Each young person has a student notebook for their own use during the course that contains all the elements of the course

'All of our Student Leadership Teams are now busy developing action research projects to audit and evaluate current study support activities within school and





their communities. We have organised a fun outdoor team-building day for all the students and facilitators in June so that the friendships formed during the course can be re-kindled/maintained. The course has really helped raise the profile of the UFA in Bolton and a number of new partnerships have been formed because of it.'

(UFA PM: Bolton)

Further courses are being delivered in Bolton, Northamptonshire and Cardiff, this term. 6 courses are being planned in London in the autumn and spring terms, bringing 500 young people together from Tower Hamlets, Lambeth, Islington and Hackney.

The UFA has just been awarded a grant by City Bridge Trust through the government's Reconciliation and Leadership stream, to work with some young people to write peer facilitator training materials for the Student Leadership course. This will allow us to complete the project originally started in 2004, whereby we have a course designed *by* young people *for* young people and co-delivered *with* young people. The course when completed will be available for any group who wants young people who have experienced the 'Students of today; leaders of tomorrow' course so far, to learn to facilitate

on it.

'Before I came on this course I didn't feel confident and I was petrified to present. I was a bit shy and I was afraid to speak out and express....me. I was precise yet I'd never achieved or received recognition and I had aims, yet was too afraid to begin achieving. I wanted to overcome my fears but I didn't believe in myself. Now I feel confident and I can present fearlessly. I believe in myself and I'm determined to achieve and succeed. I have bigger ambitions and aims. I will be a better role model and I understand more about life'. **(Student:**

Liverpool)

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