



Kings College student working on an engine in the GASP workshop.

Exciting times at GASP...

The last six months has been a hugely exciting time at GASP. The workshop and mobile unit have been busier than ever. Since January, we have worked with over 100 – often ‘hard to reach’ – young people. Fifty-six have already attained an AQA Unit Award accreditation, and a further 19 are now on course to do so. In that time, we have delivered 103 daytime sessions (51 from our new workshop, and 52 using our mobile unit), six school holiday sessions, and 39 evening sessions – a grand total of 148 sessions.

Our aim is to give young people the chance to learn basic motor mechanics skills whilst providing them with opportunities to re-engage with education and learning. We know that the difference made can be in small steps in terms of the actual motor engineering. But at the same time we often see a significant change in their attitude, behaviour, time-keeping and other ‘soft skills’ including team working, communication and politeness.

“The reputation of GASP is growing fast,” says Andy Finch, Chief Executive, “and we are now widely recognised for delivering innovative and engaging programmes that deliver positive outcomes. All our sessions are tailored to maximise the benefits for these hard to reach young people, and we’re excited that every course now provides them with an opportunity to gain an accreditation.”

Recognising learning and success

All GASP courses now offer young people the chance to gain an AQA Unit Award accreditation; so far this year 56 young people have been accredited. The AQA Unit Award Scheme is a ‘can do’ accreditation scheme that recognises learning and success. It rewards students for their personal progress and achievements, which are often not recognised by more formal qualifications. It typically takes around 10 hours of



Kingsway Centre students demonstrate their skills to His Royal Highness.

Royal visit to GASP Motor Workshop

In February, GASP was delighted to receive a visit from HRH The Duke of Kent – he joined pupils from local schools and organisations, together with funders and supporters, at the Workshop. His Royal Highness was greeted by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Dame Sarah Goad, who last visited GASP in September 2012 to open the Workshop. Before leaving, The Duke unveiled a plaque to mark his visit.

Pupils from Kings College in Guildford showed His Royal Highness how they could strip down and rebuild a Fiat 126. Students from the Kingsway Centre at Woking demonstrated many of the engineering techniques they had learnt on a 12-week programme delivered by GASP in partnership with Brooklands Museum at Weybridge, and funded by Toyota GB. He also met local young people who regularly attend GASP evening sessions and they worked on two go-karts.

Chair of Trustees Sally Varah said: “We were delighted that His Royal Highness could meet these young people and see for himself how much they gain from our life changing alternative learning programme at GASP. The fact that The Duke is a Royal Fellow of the Academy of Engineering makes his interest in our fledgling motor mechanics charity even more significant.”

learning to complete one ‘Entry Level’ Unit, with students needing to demonstrate that they can successfully complete a number of tasks.

GASP is currently delivering a range of AQA Units, which relate to basic motor mechanics. Identification and the correct use of tools; basic motor vehicle maintenance; workshop safety, and the construction of a petrol driven go-kart are just four of the programmes offered.



Janette Butler, Community Matters Programme Manager at P&G, meets young people at the Walton programme.

New programme for homeless young people

Over the last six months we have expanded our work with young people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming so. Those in this situation are notoriously difficult to engage, but a generous grant from the Schutz Engel Trust and the MVMF enabled us to pioneer our work with these often challenging individuals. Now, with support from P&G (Procter & Gamble), we recently ran a 12-week programme at Walton Youth Centre, targeting this cohort.

We worked in partnership with Surrey Youth Support Services (SYSS) to develop and deliver the programme. Seven young people attended sessions and three of those have successfully gained AQA Unit Award accreditation. The skills they have learned will now be put to good use in a horticultural programme SYSS is running, which will involve the maintenance and repair of garden machinery. One participant is now doing work experience at the local Audi dealership. Another said: "Whilst I may not become a mechanic, the skills I have learned on the course will be really useful in future and will definitely save me money".

The (OFSTED) Inspector calls ...

In February, as a result of GASP's work with schools in the Waverley Federation, the Workshop was visited by an HMI OFSTED inspector. This was part of an inspection of Rodborough School's use of alternative learning provision for disaffected students. The HMI highlighted the excellent procedures in place for selecting, commissioning and assuring the quality of the alternative provision. There were no recommendations for how things could be improved – a great result for both GASP and the Waverley Federation.

GASP and Guildford YMCA win Local Prevention Framework contract

Starting in September 2013, GASP will be running a major programme of activity for young people from 11 schools across the boroughs of Waverley and Guildford. There will be after school courses, school holiday programmes and GASP workshop-based evening sessions. All of this is made possible by funding from the Surrey County Council (SCC) Local Prevention Framework (LPF) contract. It aims to enable young people aged 13-16 to stay in education, employment or training by removing some of the barriers that they face.

In March 2012, GASP successfully bid to deliver LPF school holiday courses to young people in both Elmbridge and Guildford boroughs for an 18-month period. Now in 2013, with the SCC funding divided across the 11 boroughs in Surrey, GASP has partnered with Guildford YMCA to bid for 24-month LPF contracts in both Waverley (with additional partners the Waverley Federation, and TFN Farnham & Ash) and Guildford Boroughs to deliver a range of LPF programmes. The fact that both bids have now been successful indicates that the positive impact of the GASP delivery on young people is recognised increasingly by contract commissioners and our partners.

Partnership working with Surrey Care Trust

Funding from Comic Relief and the Community Foundation for Surrey means that we are now delivering GASP workshops to young people participating in the Surrey Care Trust STEPS programme. This alternative education and training programme works with 14 to 16 year olds who no longer attend mainstream school. The GASP sessions are being delivered using both our workshop and the mobile unit. Six half-day courses, delivered over six weeks, will directly benefit up to 24 young people. By July 2013, three GASP courses had been delivered and 10 young people had successfully achieved AQA Unit Award accreditations.



For further information, please contact:

Andy Finch: andy.finch@gaspmotorproject.org

T: 07786 939798

www.gaspmotorproject.org

Hands on learning that helps drive change