

The Clubs in Action

Case study Deanery School Wigan

Deanery School in Wigan established its CC4G club in May 2005. From an initial membership of 20 girls, the school is now extending its offer to 50 girls by offering an additional session in the week. As this extension demonstrates, the club is not only a popular after school option, but has truly inspired the girls' interest in IT.

Getting going

Taking part in research conducted by e-skills UK on girls' perceptions of IT, inspired Jo Hirst, club facilitator and ICT teacher, to set up a CC4G at Deanery.

"We agreed with the findings that girls do find IT 'boring' and think that it is a subject 'for boys' and get fed up with it. We decided the club would be a great idea."

Despite being keen to get involved, as a teacher, Jo knew that any initial set up arrangements had to be straightforward.

"It had to be easy, I'm a teacher, with other responsibilities, so it had to be easy to set up and manage. However, we received so much support from e-skills UK that it really was no big deal to organise."

After registering her initial interest with a quick phone call, e-skills UK advised Jo on everything from signing pupils up to the easy-to-use password protected website to directing them through the curriculum.

"Within two weeks of getting in touch with e-skills UK, we had our own club up and running, without any problems!"

Who wants to be in our gang?

Jo promoted the new club at school assemblies, asking those were interested to register with her.

"I suppose in the beginning I just wanted some girls to turn up – now we have to offer two separate sessions every week – and we still have a waiting list!"

Lights, Camera, Action!

A key element of CC4G is linking the development of in-depth IT skills with the girls' everyday interests. By doing so, CC4G inspires them to consider career paths they may never have considered.

For example, the girls recently had the opportunity to develop their IT skills in relation to the world of journalism. Working with a local journalist, the girls learnt how to write for autocue and how to interview like a professional reporter.

Jo continues: "The girls started with a few shy questions but as the journalist gave them some feedback they became much more confident and really started asking him the tough questions! The skills they have learnt through CC4G are as much to with communication as they are with ICT."

Showing off!

The school are extremely proud of their club and the way it has engaged the girls, developing their skills and inspiring their imaginations.

Jo comments: "The club is a real asset to the school. We even had it set up on parents' night so that parents could see what the girls were learning and how excited they were about it"

As an advocate of the project, Jo would like to see it established in schools across the country. "Everywhere I go I recommend CC4G – I've been up to my daughter's school – they don't have it yet, but I'm working on it!"