

## The Clubs in Action

### Fosse Primary School – Case Study Leicester

Fosse Primary School is a large school in Leicester with over 320 pupils from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. Head teacher, Steve Boyce, involved Fosse Primary in CC4G (Computer Clubs for Girls), over a year ago and now runs a weekly club for 18 girls.

#### Get going

Having contacted CC4G and been given marketing collateral and software to promote and run the programme within his school, Steve initiated a CC4G programme for pupils from years five and six, aged 10 -11 years old as he saw its potential as a vital bridge between play and academic learning.

“I realised that CC4G can play an important role for our students, as a constant in their rapidly changing stage of life. I also thought that CC4G would be a fantastic way to re-engage students after the school holidays as computers are something that they have spent a lot of time playing on during the break. After a year of running the programme I have seen that my predictions rang true – young people are predisposed to using computers in the classroom and they can act as a highly effective bridge between academic learning and play,” he explains.

#### Get creative

Before starting the Clubs, Steve asked children who had expressed an interest in getting involved when they would like to attend, and it was decided that Saturday morning was the best time.

“You can run a CC4G club at any time and it’s great to be able to offer it as part of an extended school programme.”

The clubs take place during term and holiday time from 10:15 – 11:30am each Saturday which allows enough time for the girls to get involved and immersed in each session. Each girl arrives, registers, and helps themselves to food and juice from the healthy breakfast bar before logging on to their individual computer.

“After a few weeks, the girls were so familiar with the format of the software that they were managing their own learning. I was just playing the role of trouble shooter, on hand to sort out any problems they may encounter.”

#### Get2IT

To run a CC4G club, the only skills the facilitator needs are sound basic IT skills.

“I’ve really enjoyed improving my own IT skills alongside the girls, but not as much as they have liked it themselves! Whether they are designing a mobile phone, composing a ring tone, using databases to book music bands or entering competitions, they love getting stuck in. It is really empowering to work on the challenges together, and it also provides an opportunity to get to know your students socially.”

Participation in CC4G has delivered benefits that go beyond the acquisition of IT skills.

“As a result of CC4G, I have really seen the girls’ confidence and self esteem increase. Not only does it increase their IT skills but it provides them with wider life skills, such as problem solving. It can also help children with learning difficulties, for example, one of our students is on the autistic spectrum and I have really seen her become more independent as a result of CC4G.”

Fosse Primary is also supporting pupils involved in CC4G making the transition to a new secondary school to encourage their teachers to facilitate their own CC4G Club.

#### Get attention

Fosse Primary’s CC4G programme has been so successful that local MP and Secretary of State for Health, Patricia Hewitt, came to visit to find out more and the local paper covered the story.

During her visit she explained: "I've been involved in many initiatives that try to engage women in science, engineering and technology and know how challenging it can be to make a significant impact. My visit to this club has easily surpassed all those hopes. The girls were excited about what they were doing and rightly proud of the skills they'd achieved. CC4G is clearly a success story - good for the girls and good for the long term future of the UK economy."