

Case Study – Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham, Charity Day

Background about the school

Queen Elizabeth is a community high school with over 450 students in the sixth form. It is situated in Hexham, Northumberland and attracts students from Hexham itself and the surrounding rural area.

What we were trying to achieve

The aims of the charity day were to:

- Raise money for charities whilst giving students the opportunity to use and develop enterprise skills.
- Allow students to take ownership of their ideas and activities.

What we did

At the end of the summer term students in year 12 were set the challenge of organising and promoting a charity day to be held in school. Each tutor group was required to come up with ideas for at least two events/competitions/stalls. Three hours of tutorial lesson time were available for students to use to plan their events. Each tutor group was given a small loan to enable them to buy any materials and equipment needed. Students had to use this loan carefully, as it was to be used to fund a number of activities, with some tutor groups running up to four different events.



The events included:

- Staff talent show
- Cake stall
- Barbeque
- Hand massages and Indian head massages
- Raffle
- Car wash
- Chocolate fountain
- Welly throwing
- Teachers in the stocks
- Tombola
- Archery

In the run up to the day events were promoted throughout school using posters and also word of mouth. On the day itself, year 12 students were off timetable all day, using time in the morning to set up. Year 9 and 10 students then took part in the activities over lunchtime and in the afternoon.

What worked well

Allowing students the freedom to plan their own events and take ownership of the day worked very well. Students were enthusiastic about the day and put in a lot of hard work, both in school time and their own time. They worked very well as teams and managed budgets and costings well. There were a wide range of activities which were well received by students from years 9 and 10 and a significant amount of money was raised for charities chosen by the students. It was a fun day with both staff and students enjoying the activities.



What we learned

Given time and resources, students can put their enterprising skills to very good use. Students will rise to the challenge when given ownership and responsibility.

What other schools can learn from our experience

An event such as this can create a real team spirit among students, while at the same time allowing students to raise money for good causes. As students were given a lot of responsibility there was not a lot of staff time required, other than through supervision.