

Year 10 Team Building Day

Year 10 spent the day out on the school field taking part in team-building activities. Fortunately, the rain has held off, at least so far!

"The point really is to make them look quite silly and they are doing a fairly good job of it!"

Teambuilding instructor

But that's not the only point, of course! The day is all about improving teamwork and encouraging people to work together. The team building challenges are designed to allow each team member to work to their strengths, and support one another on their weaknesses.



Tasks included...

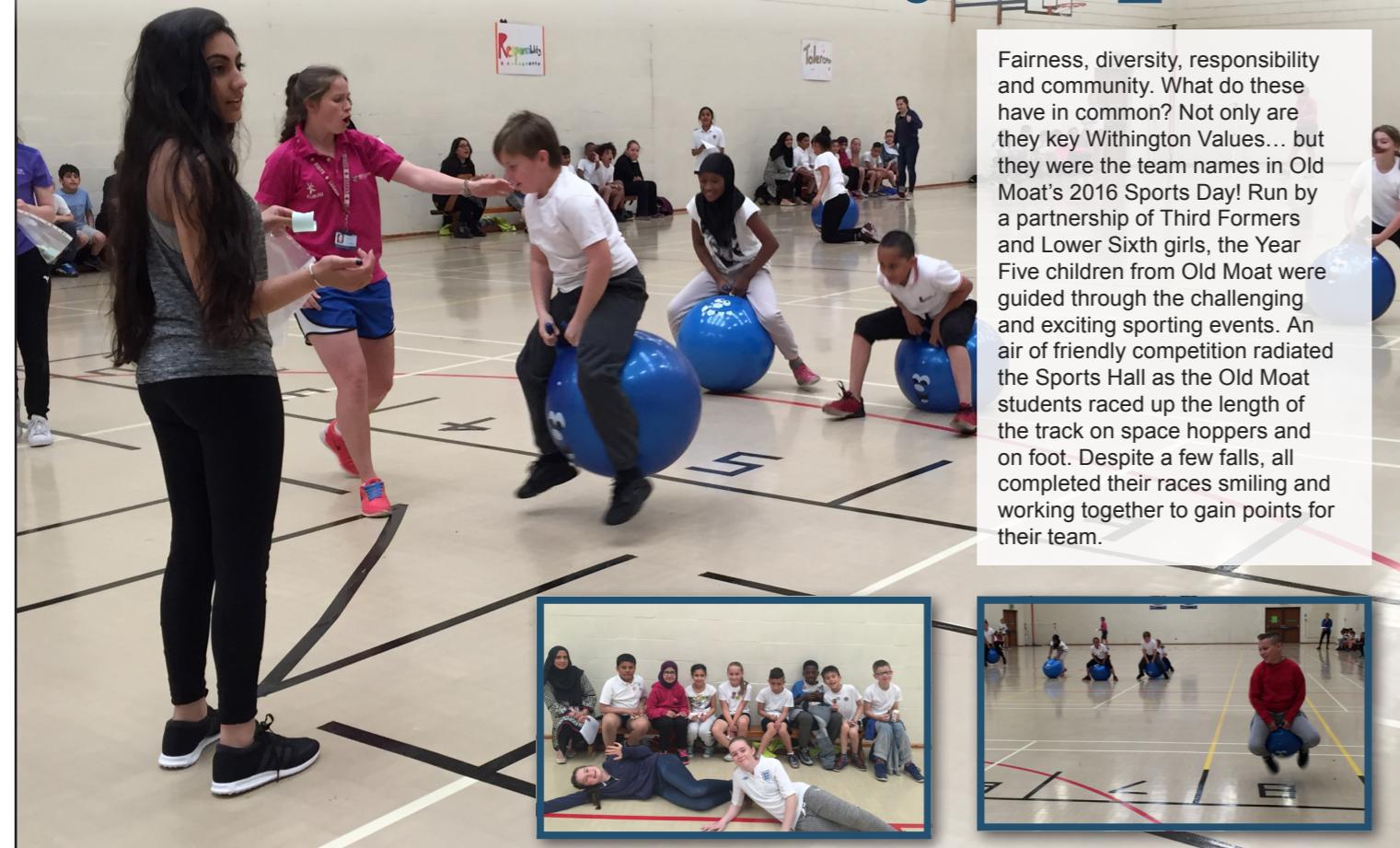
"Electric Fence" – The team had to work together to get across the "electric fence" without touching it!

"Gutterball" – an exercise in which the team could work to develop both their communication skills and their hand-eye coordination.

"The Bomb" – the team had to lift a weight out of an area using ropes, without touching it! The skills that this developed included skills around planning and communication.



Old Moat Olympics



Fairness, diversity, responsibility and community. What do these have in common? Not only are they key Withington Values... but they were the team names in Old Moat's 2016 Sports Day! Run by a partnership of Third Formers and Lower Sixth girls, the Year Five children from Old Moat were guided through the challenging and exciting sporting events. An air of friendly competition radiated the Sports Hall as the Old Moat students raced up the length of the track on space hoppers and on foot. Despite a few falls, all completed their races smiling and working together to gain points for their team.

THE CITIZEN

Withington Girls' School Citizenship Day

Interview with...

Mrs Marks

I've always thought that this is one of the most important days of the school year because it does not have anything to do with exams and it is not to do with preparing for exams or grade sheets or reports. It is to do with us remembering that we are a part of a wider community and that whilst we have the privilege of an education that others cannot dream of having, that brings responsibility with it and a responsibility to the people in our community in particular.

The importance of the day is to remind us of our community. Many of us come in by car or by bus and go to different places in the evening. As we do not all live in this community this is a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know the other schools, homes for the elderly, the gardens and activities and also do some practical learning activities so we can think about issues such as fair trade: the importance of buying produce that has been made in an ethical way.

This year, not because it is my last one, but because of the events of last week, we must look forward and try to heal any divisions within our community.

Activities such as these take us out of our classrooms and into real world activities.

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give" and this explains the fundamental importance of giving rather than receiving. Evidence suggests that people are generally more fulfilled when they involve themselves in activities in which they give their time to others. Often people may have a lot of money and material goods but they may not have that sense of connection with other people, so I hope that we can take away a real feeling of having our spirits lifted by being involved with our community and doing something that benefits others, rather than constantly thinking, 'What's in it for me?'



Christie Car Wash and Cake Sale

Mrs Bradshaw confidently announces that the year 7s are definitely improving their car washing skills by the hour! She also adds that they have learned "less haste, more speed" is the way to go, with which Mr Parry agreed, saying:

**"It's quality over quantity today!
We want to do a quality job in
raising money for The Christie –
with £5 being donated per car!"**

As we talked to the car washers, everybody seemed to be having fun, hosing down teachers' cars and polishing them until they shone. As expected with this lively activity, no one was left dry after their hard work, but they worked hard and helped each other out to clean both themselves and the cars of soap suds before heading off for a well-deserved break!

Also to raise money for The Christie, the Year 7s helped to bake some delicious cakes that were then sold at breaktime.



Interview with...

Mrs Haslam

What do you think is the importance of Citizenship Day?

Citizenship Day is a real highlight of the school calendar. A day when the community all comes together, staff and pupils alike. It's really important for pupils to understand our place in the local community – as it is central to our school ethos of always looking outwards and taking part.

If you were a student, which activity would you want to take part in?

Definitely the concert this afternoon. It's great to be able to have the opportunity to talk to the Senior Citizens in our local community, not to mention the amazing quality of the music!

What is your favourite part of Citizenship Day?

Personally, I really enjoy going around all the activities, both on-site and off, and be able to get a flavour of all the variety on offer. It's always nice to see how much fun everybody is having spending time with one another, and how rewarding it is to feel useful and to help others. Another highlight of the day would definitely be Final Assembly where I get an insight into how everyone's day has gone when they report back to everyone.

Did you have a Citizenship Day at your school?

No, I'm afraid I didn't! We did do voluntary work including going out into our community and helping senior citizens, which I enjoyed enormously.

How many Citizenship Days have you been a part of?

Every single one, and I've thoroughly enjoyed them all! I remember Mrs Buckley being in charge when Citizenship Day was first launched in 2007. From the outset it was always a very different and very special day.



Baking for Senior Citizens' tea party

The baking for the tea party got off to a great start, with many cakes and scones already on the go by break - they all smelled amazing! The team were very productive and everyone got stuck in to the activities. Mrs Healey commented on the lovely atmosphere around the FTT room and all the girls seemed to be really enjoying themselves, even with the washing up! Mrs Healey wants to thank all of her helpers, but in particular the sixth form girls, Imogen, Charlotte and Bronwyn who have really helped to make her job easier and the baking activities run smoothly.



The Art department have also been hard at work today making all sorts of decorations for the tea party! These decorations included things like table decoration and bunting to put up around the Dining Room! Everyone seemed to be having fun - getting creative with all sorts of glitter and sequins. Madam Humblet observed that

"The most important thing is to be doing something you enjoy!"

and that really seemed to sum up the attitude of the decoration team!



Senior Citizens' Concert

Today, musicians from different years all came together to throw a concert for the local senior citizens. Here are some quotations from participants:

"It's a really fulfilling thing to do. It's really nice to see the senior citizens smiling and laughing!" Amber Murray

"I really enjoy this day of the year, because it's lovely to help the year 7s and all work together." Emily Herbert
"I'm really looking forward to the concert this afternoon."

Sophie Baschich



Year 8 The Real Game

What would you do if you found out that the luxurious lifestyle you had always dreamt of was beyond your income? Today, the Year 8s were dealt a hand in the game of life, but were they lucky in the draw? After choosing speed boats, cars and mansions from the "shopping list of life" the Lower Fourth groups found that their mystery occupations provided a significantly lower income than what was needed. Forced to prioritise, rationalise and reduce their spending, the groups learnt many useful skills.



"I had a blast helping the year 8s understand the value of money" Eva Cain

"I loved helping the year 8s develop responsibility and understanding of their future and the world around them"

Alex Edmonds

"They're just going to start thinking and mulling over what they might want to do later in life so that they can begin to gather their own ideas of what they're good at and what they enjoy"

Mrs Hamilton



Year 9 Fair Trade Game

Members of our media team had the opportunity to speak to Fayon Cottrell, who was running the fair trade workshop, to find out just what the Year 9s were going to be doing! Here's what she had to say:

"Hi, I'm Fayon Cottrell from Inspiring Futures and today is all about enterprise; it's about looking at your position in the world and how you fit into this global economy. We're going to be looking at fair trade and there's going to be a lot of teamwork, using your individual skills, and bringing them together, not to mention having a lot of fun!"

The Year 9s were split up into teams. One group said that they were looking forward to getting a better understanding of the Fairtrade industry. Another group said they were enjoying getting to know people who they hadn't previously talked to!



Interview with...

Mrs Edge

How are you feeling about Citizenship Day 2016?

I am really looking forward to seeing the school pull together on this very important day!

Why did you pick the theme of 'Value' for this year's Citizenship Day?

I chose 'Value' this year because the word value encompasses so many of the different aspects of being a citizen. I thought it would be a great theme for the school to be able to focus on the idea of British Values throughout the day.

What is your favourite part of Citizenship Day?

I love getting to watch the staff and girls pull together every year on all of the different activities. This day really shows us just what it is that makes Withington the school it is - and watching it all unfold is very special.

Is there any activity in particular you are excited to hear back from?

This is the first year we've had the team building going on, so I'm really excited to hear how they got on and what sort of activities they got up to. Teamwork is such a valuable thing for everybody to learn, which is why I thought this would be a good activity to introduce this year. I'm always interested to hear how they got on at the car wash and hopefully the rain will hold off for them! The concert at the end of the day will be wonderful because for those 150 people it gives them a really lovely day.

Do you have any final words of wisdom for the end of the day?

I think the quotation, "A world without values quickly becomes a world without value" really reflects on the day and I think now more than ever we need to remember that. So finally I hope everyone has had a fantastic day and that you've all enjoyed adding value to yourselves and other people.

