

Fusion Camps



EASTER 2021

DELIVERED BY

Active
FUSION



Be Happy. Be Healthy. Be Active



Doncaster
Council

FOREWORD

MORE THAN JUST A SPORTS CAMP



Fusion Camps have evolved incredibly over the last year to provide children and young people with a wider range of opportunities with the intention of igniting their passion for something that they love. The programme provided fun activities, learning opportunities and healthy food to disadvantaged children across 11 communities in Doncaster. Funded through the Department for Education's holiday activity fund working in collaboration with Doncaster Council, FareShare and Company Shop Group.

In just eight days, our team delivered 300 hours of activity through a combination of sports, physical activity, dance, cooking and nutrition, music-making, technology, photography and a range of engaging essential life skill activities developing communication, resilience, teamwork and social skills.

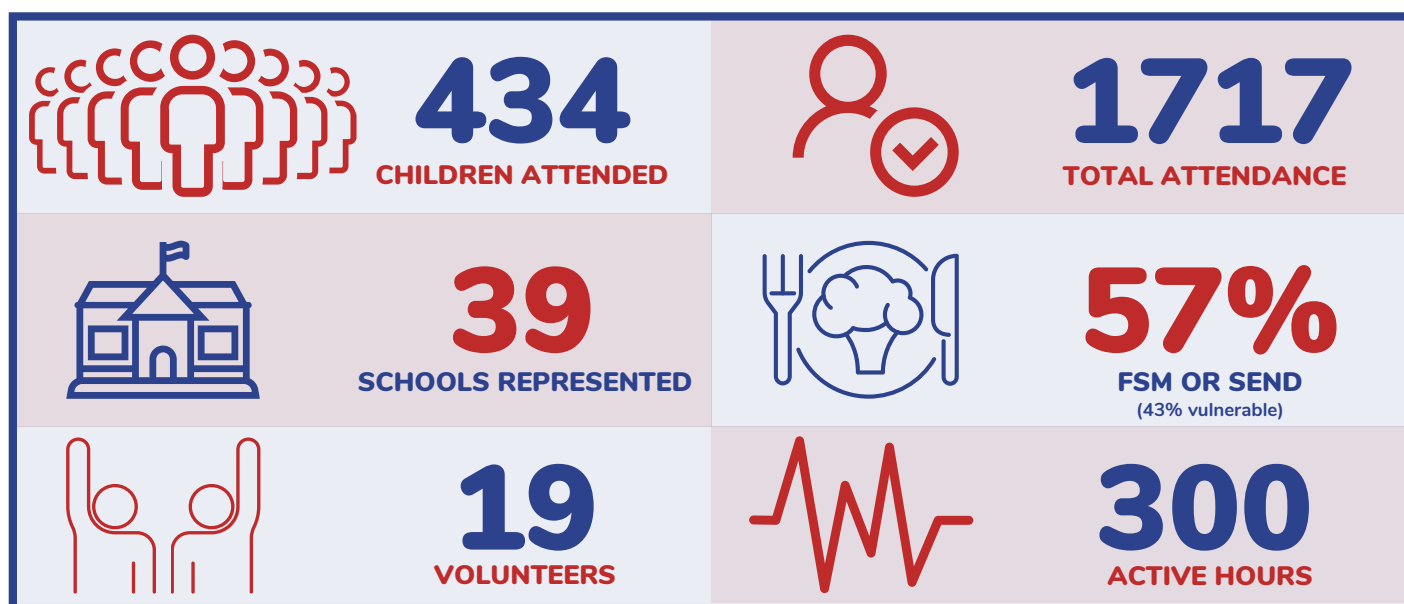
We have had the pleasure of engaging 434 young people over the Easter period as well as reaching thousands through our ongoing online lessons and activities.

Easter is a tale of two halves, with one being the incredible young people who take part in the camp experience, and the second being the dedicated team of volunteers, apprentices and Kickstart individuals who give their time unconditionally.

Why? Because young adults want to give something back and make a difference in their local communities and we hope to support them in their pathway into education, training and employment in the future.

Lindsey James

HEADLINE STATISTICS



THE PURPOSE OF THE CAMPS

We delivered our newly revamped 'Fusion Camps' across 11 Doncaster communities throughout the Easter half-term holidays.

All places were offered to children between the ages of 4 and 12 who were eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), classed as Special Educational Needs or were deemed vulnerable by the headteacher from their school. The content of our camps included: a wide range of sports; elite sports master classes; physical activity and enrichment; healthy eating sessions; numeracy and literacy through physical education; essential life skills; cooking workshops and ingredients boxes sent home with a tutorial video link to encourage family cooking and education about nutrition.

Children also took part in: arts; drama; dance; music; orienteering; film making and developing relationships with modern technology. Encouraging children to remain active throughout the two-week camp, the coaches at Active Fusion spent time delivering sessions that saw children develop and learn new skills, interact with their peers and increase their knowledge on healthy eating.

The Aims:



Balanced Meals

Have access to nutritious and balanced meals



More Active

Be more active during the school holidays



Enriching Activity

Take part in enriching activity to support resilience, character and wellbeing



Be Safe

Be safe and not be socially isolated



More Engaged

Be more engaged with school and other local services

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

In a bid to offer children a happier, healthier and more active Easter, Active Fusion worked in partnership with a variety of different organisations across the local community.

Doncaster College and University Centre gave their students the chance to volunteer on camp, while Kat Fewster (karate) Jowanna Bedford (drama), Scotty's Heroes (military experience) and Jake Prime (Doncaster Lawn Tennis Club) all offered their time to educate, inspire and teach children specialised skills and knowledge.



Kat Fewster



Community Shop CIC



Wayne Sables Project



90 Minute Music

90 Minute Music offered children at Campsmount the opportunity to create their own music, alongside learning to remix and jamming to support education, social inclusion and transition. While award-winning filmmaker Wayne Sables offered media workshops, showing children the world through a smartphone lens.

Community Shop CIC, based in Barnsley, delivered life-changing learning and development cooking workshops to children across all camps in an effort to build stronger individuals and more confident communities. Children were given a taster session on how to cook simple, yet healthy, meals at home with their families and were sent home with a box of ingredients to kickstart their healthy eating journeys.

With more than 400 food parcels to deliver across Doncaster, both FareShare Yorkshire and St Leger Homes of Doncaster provided efficient and timely transportation links to make sure children had access to the healthy food.

"David and I have met some amazing people from Active Fusion and some fantastic kids across the schools we visited! We have enjoyed every minute and can't wait to get cooking with even more kids in the future."

Daniel Wake

Lead Mentor at Community Shop CIC

BENTLEY

100% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active

89% of children agree that a variety of activities are important on camp



“Camp is really fun. It is a great opportunity to make new friends and to also develop new skills.”

William, aged 10

The Stats:

45
CHILDREN ATTENDED

210
TOTAL ATTENDANCE

22:23
MALE : FEMALE

31
FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

44
ACTIVE HOURS



The Stats:

41
CHILDREN ATTENDED

141
TOTAL ATTENDANCE

21:20
MALE : FEMALE

31
FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

22
ACTIVE HOURS



BALBY

100% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active

70% of children said it is very important to be active with others



“I really enjoyed supporting a child who came who was very shy and timid. I enjoyed helping him build confidence and seeing him get involved with the other children.”

Abbigail, volunteer

CAMP INSIGHT

EDLINGTON - VICTORIA

100% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active

78% of children said it is important to have more activities than just sport



“Camp is important to me because it allows me to be myself and I can relax without having to worry about anything.”

Jemimah, aged 9

The Stats:

39

CHILDREN ATTENDED

140

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

26:13

MALE : FEMALE

22

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

22

ACTIVE HOURS



EDLINGTON - HILL TOP

The Stats:

40

CHILDREN ATTENDED

139

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

23:17

MALE : FEMALE

22

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

22

ACTIVE HOURS



100% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active

70% of children said it is very important to be active with others



“I want to get fitter and more active. Camp has taught me a lot about healthy eating and how to look after myself.”

Harry, aged 9

CAMP INSIGHT

CONISBROUGH

100% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active

69% of children agree that it is fun to learn new skills



“ I was nervous when I walked in on the first day but then I felt happy because I'm spending time with my friends. ”

Amirah, aged 5

The Stats:

41

CHILDREN ATTENDED

147

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

27:15

MALE : FEMALE

10

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

22

ACTIVE HOURS



The Stats:

25

CHILDREN ATTENDED

98

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

11:14

MALE : FEMALE

24

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

22

ACTIVE HOURS



MEXBOROUGH

67% of children said that the most important part of camp was being active

100% of children agree that learning new skills is important on camp



“ Children have been missing out on essential enrichment, physical activity and socialisation, these camps allow children to have a sense of much-needed normality. ”

Mollie, school teacher

BESSACARR

100% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active

85% of children agree that learning new skills is important on camp



“It wasn't nice not being able to see my friends during Lockdown. I'm a lot happier when I'm on camp with my friends having fun.”

Mustafa, aged 5

The Stats:

44

CHILDREN ATTENDED

160

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

22:22

MALE : FEMALE

13

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

22

ACTIVE HOURS



The Stats:

25

CHILDREN ATTENDED

92

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

13:12

MALE : FEMALE

19

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

22

ACTIVE HOURS



ROSSINGTON

KEY STAGE 1 ONLY

66% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active



“I have loved camp. I've been able to learn new things, play games I've never heard about or played before and spent time with my friends.”

Ellis, aged 6

CAMP INSIGHT

activefusion

MOORENDS

100% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active

83% of children agree that it is very important to learn new skills on camp



“My kids had a brilliant time at camp and loved all the activities. Thank you so much for their fun experience with you.”

Sarah, parent

The Stats:

47

CHILDREN ATTENDED

222

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

28:19

MALE : FEMALE

34

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

52

ACTIVE HOURS



The Stats:

42

CHILDREN ATTENDED

148

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

20:22

MALE : FEMALE

26

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

22

ACTIVE HOURS



KIRK SANDALL

100% of parents said their child's mental health improved

100% of parents said that camps made their children more active

70% of children said it is very important to be active with others



“Thank you for ensuring my daughter had a lovely week. It really helped increase her confidence and she had a great time.”

Pam, parent

CAMPSMOUNT

The Aims:



Transition

Making the transition from primary to secondary school



Increased Confidence

Becoming more confident through partaking in different activities



New Opportunities

Taking part in enriching activities to support resilience, character and mental wellbeing



Build Relationships

Building new relationships with peers in a safe and engaging environment



Be Creative

Encouraged to be creative through artistic and practical sessions

The Stats:

46

CHILDREN ATTENDED

220

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

16:30

MALE : FEMALE

16

FSM/SEND/PUPIL PREMIUM

28

ACTIVITY HOURS

Student Voice:

98%

of students said that learning a new skill is important

69%

of students said that being active is very important

87%

of students said it is important to take part in a variety of activities

77%

of students said the best part of camp is taking part in activities with friends

56%

of students said longer days with more activities would make camp even better



100%

of parents said their child enjoyed camp

100%

of parents said that camps made their children more active



I like coming to Active Fusion's holiday camps because I get to meet new friends ready for when I come to Campsmount in September.

Niamh, aged 11

ACTIVE FUSION GIVES STUDENT CAREER OPTIONS FOR POST-COLLEGE

Finishing College can never be easy. There are endless possibilities for students looking to get into the world of work. But for many students, vital work experience can shape their opinions, which is exactly what has happened to Rodney John.

The 16-year-old volunteered on a Fusion Camp in Edlington during Easter, in a bid to further enhance his knowledge on coaching and teaching, which he has always considered for a future career.

He said: "I found being on camp quite entertaining and a good use of my time. I've come across good members of staff, I've come across good children who have made camp a joy to be on and it has been a really good experience for me."



Rodney wanted to make sure he was volunteering in an area he could see himself starting a career in.

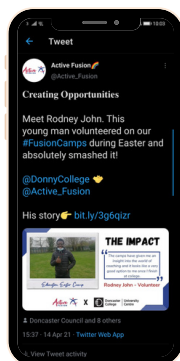
A confident individual, Rodney said it was the way Active Fusion came across during a meeting that made him want to spend his time volunteering.

He said: "The placement officer at the College set up a Zoom call with Stephen from Active Fusion. It was his explanation of the organisation and his explanation of what you had to do on camp that really sold it to me; he made it sound enjoyable."

The camps allow volunteers to increase their knowledge on coaching, while also putting their skills to the test in a nurturing environment. Rodney went to camp with a plan: he wanted to make children feel comfortable around him and therefore give them a greater opportunity to benefit from the games, activities and sessions at camp. He also wanted to learn from the experienced Active Fusion coaches on camp with him.

He said: "When I first came to volunteer on camp, I just wanted to make the children comfortable around me so they can get the most out of their time on camp and just enjoy themselves. Camp is a fun, learning environment and I hope the children enjoyed their experience."

It has been hard for young people to find working opportunities because of the pandemic, including Rodney.



"Active Fusion took me on and partnered me up with good coaches to increase my knowledge and allow me to get the most out of this opportunity. The camps are beneficial for everyone. They help children build friendships, they help volunteers and young people like me, and they also help parents who want their children to have fun and be active."

"I would definitely work for Active Fusion again. They've helped me grow as a person and a coach."

"I've always thought about coaching or teaching and this experience has really opened my eyes. It has given me an insight into the world of coaching and it looks like a very good option to me once I finish at college."

Rodney, aged 16

THE COACHES ARE GIVING CHILDREN A REASON TO COME BACK

With lockdown disrupting friendships and stunting young people's development, Active Fusion's holiday camps have once again been viewed as a positive programme - for children, by children.

The pandemic saw an increased need for the holiday camps, as they became even more crucial for children, who had missed out on both vital education and high-quality PE and physical activity during large parts of 2020. Ten-year-old James, who attended the holiday camp in Edlington, is one of those kids who values friendship and being active, but unfortunately missed out on a lot of that due to the pandemic.

Thankfully for James, the holiday camps have allowed him to get back up to speed and develop both his physical and academic ability.



He said: "Camp was very fun and I really enjoyed taking part. I enjoyed it because I got to see my friends and I haven't been able to do that much recently with everything that is going on."

The real question is – why do children think camp is important to them? James, even at the tender age of ten, already knows why camp is so important to him.

He said: "Camp is important to me because I get to have fun with my friends. If I weren't at camp, I would just be sitting at home not doing much."

"Because I've been stuck at home a lot lately, I haven't been able to do any of my hobbies, so camp has definitely made me more active again."

Even though it has been said that children do not fully understand the pandemic, they are still affected by it. Young James and his friends are no different. It is fair to say they have struggled to enjoy life to the fullest, but Active Fusion are determined to make sure children are given the opportunity to enjoy themselves.

James said: "It was very upsetting and it got a bit worrying at times not being able to see my friends during lockdown. But now that I'm back in school and on these camps, I feel a lot better now. I'm getting back to how I was before lockdown. The coaches have made me feel safe and welcome each time I come."



James continues to look back at his time on camp with fondness, having made so many great memories with friends, old and new. When asked if he would come again if the camps were to run in the future, James did not hesitate to answer.

He said: "I would come back to camp because it makes me happy, it makes me feel more active and it's fun being around people who are also having a good time on camp like my friends."

The games have been really fun and the coaches have given me a reason to come back again. They're very nice and are always smiling."

James, aged 10

FUSION CAMPS CONTINUE TO HELP CHILDREN IMPROVE THEIR CONFIDENCE

The Active Fusion holiday camps continue to help children to improve and develop their skills, while also allowing them to integrate further into their community, according to foster carer Lynne Graves.

Lynne is a foster carer for Ionut, a six-year-old Romanian boy, who attended the Fusion Camp in Bentley. Described as an energetic, vibrant individual, Lynne believes the camps have been hugely beneficial for Ionut, as he continues to embed himself further into his local community.

She said: “The camps have been really beneficial for Ionut. As his foster carer, it has been nice to keep the continuity of school life going during the holidays, albeit a little bit more relaxed with a higher focus on sport and activity.”



With an increasing number of children not able to access physical activity due to the pandemic, these camps became more important than ever before. Lynne wants the very best for Ionut, who has shown improvements every day since coming to camp.

She said: “Camps are really important. I think it is nice that children can come on camp and have fun with their friends and the coaches. “They’re not just sat at home in front of the television or tablet, they’re out there being active and being engaged.”

The pandemic affects everyone differently, Lynne admits this. The problem plenty of parents have had over the past twelve months is explaining to their children why they cannot go to the park or go swimming or do the things they want to do. With the pandemic now easing, parents, including Lynne, have been able to reflect on what the camps have offered during a really tough period for the entire nation.

She said: “Because he’s only six, he doesn’t really fully understand Covid. We have obviously been limited where we can go as we haven’t been able to do all the activities we want to do with him, so being able to come here has been an absolutely amazing replacement for the things we haven’t been able to do.”



As the camps continue to show their value to the community, Lynne has reflected on how much Ionut has developed since walking through the doors at Bentley High Street for the first time.

She said: “Ionut has really enjoyed it. He would come home and tell me all about it and what he’s learnt.

“Every day is an improvement, which is really important to us.”

Everything he learns makes him feel more confident and comfortable. It shows that he’s starting to understand more which allows him to do more and get more involved with activities and games.

Lynne, carer

FEEDBACK

PARENTS



94%

of parents said their children have been more active on camp

98%

of parents said that their children enjoyed their time on camp

98%

of parents would recommend Active Fusion to others

88%

of parents said their child's mental health was improved



PARTICIPANTS



94%

of children said it is very important to learn new skills on camp

94%

of children said it is very important to be active with others



THE IMPACT

“ It was great to see my son happy. After being at home alone for the past year, this has been a great confidence boost and helped him get fitter again. ”

**Amy, parent
(Edlington)**

“ This was the first time my children have been at one of your camps and they were anxious on Monday morning but came out smiling and excited for the next day. ”

**Sam, parent
(Balby)**

“ We absolutely love Active Fusion. The staff are knowledgeable, friendly and give children the opportunity to socialise with others and have fun. ”

**Gemma, parent
(Bentley)**

“ The camp allowed my daughter to burn off her energy and forget about the stresses of covid. It's an amazing programme and I'm grateful she had the chance to attend. ”

**Liz, parent
(Bessacarr)**

“ These camps have really benefited my son and have given him lots of confidence and helped improve his social skills. ”

**Ashlei, parent
(Edlington)**

“ A fantastic, well organised programme. My daughter loved it. A great way to spend time, learning new skills and meeting new people. I would highly recommend. ”

**Sarah, parent
(Campsall)**

