



Newsletter

Summer Holidays 2023

A bumper summer full of fun activities

Our provision does not end when schools close. Although our core work alongside schools may cease on a daily basis, we have been in overdrive since then. We are not a team that sits idle. We have skills and resource that can benefit many, and so with our base, and our hearts firmly in the community, we have been ensuring our time has been well spent. This has included taking over 250 paddlers on the water over 9 days at Hardway, Gosport. We had started this initiative 4 years ago to help counter the anti-social behaviour that was plaguing the area. Not only has it helped achieve this, but has brought far more families down to the area for the day giving the green a more inclusive and diverse demographic than the groups of teenagers who dominated previously. The project has another positive side effect that allows us to bring in some of our students to help out with jobs such as running/organising 'the beach' and getting paddlers on and off the water safely. See 'student profile' below for a deserved special thanks to one in particular who has shone this summer and grown in stature through this work experience and proven he can be an asset to an employer, a community, and society.



The 50th edition of the Rolex Fastnet race





On the 22nd July, a team of Plan B staff, trainees and supporters lined up alongside 450 other yachts for the start of the 50th edition of the world famous Rolex Fastnet race. This was the record for the most yachts ever to start an offshore race, and what a start it was. Gale force conditions on the first leg out of the solent saw unprecedented damage, injuries, dismasting's and a sinking. By the following morning, 82 yachts had retired and headed for ports of refuge, or back home. Our Plan B team managed to keep going despite sea sickness, fatigue and damage, to complete the race, finishing in Cherbourg (France) in just over 5 days. The mileage and experience for our trainees and immense satisfaction for all onboard. We were also blessed with an onboard media crew member Simon, and a short film of the race can be seen at the link [here](#).

[Interview with John Gillard, Skipper of Lancelot 2, Fastnet Race 2023 - YouTube -](#)



We have employed a kitchen manager

Our kitchen buzzes on a daily basis. Breakfasts are generally in demand and cooked lunches are a staple. Catering is the biggest employer in the world. We all love to eat and the students of Plan B are certainly no exception to that. More so, we have found that they are open to trying new cuisine, and have a keen interest in nutrition alongside taste and variety. That is why, after 12 months of successful catering trials, we are moving to the next level. Martin B is a trained chef who has worked in commercial kitchens for the majority of his career after leaving catering college. He is also experienced with SEN students and understands the levels to pitch at across our range of learners which will hopefully instil his passion into others alongside our ethos to ensure students eat well whilst they are at Plan B.





Summer Reunion.

Six weeks of summer holidays can seem a very long time in a child's life, especially when they may not have many plans for the duration. This is why we have always put a summer reunion date on the calendar. Over the years, we have been told that this day has been looked forward to, with students often counting down the days until they can get together in a fun and social setting with friends and peers. This year was no exception, and our day of sport on dry land, water based activities, BBQ and social was more than well received by the attendees and feedback has been glowing. What a day we had at Lee on Solent's beach front overlooking the Isle of Wight. Everyone was pleased to see each other and catch up. The day went swimmingly if all too quickly, but it gave us all a thirst for returning in the Autumn term.



This summer, we have also...

Worked alongside the fantastic Jon Carver of the Sawdust Academy, upskilling and project planning for the new term of carpentry and boatbuilding students. We have continued our refit of the beautiful Flame of Anor sail training vessel. Our trainee Adam(ski) has completed further nautical miles aboard the iconic sailing yacht Jolie Brise, navigating from Ipswich to Guernsey to Falmouth under the careful guidance and watchful eye of skipper and sail training legend Adam Seager aka Boris. We have been the grateful recipients of the Alverbank Hotel fundraising event 'Shakespeare in the Park' and their BBQ and fun day. Thankyou so much as always. We have visited Feltham young offenders institution and witnessed first hand the downside of poor behaviour choices we are here to counter, and also the work done by the wonderful team there to rehabilitate. Our staff member Gill has also taken some of our siblings of past students on a fun daytrip to Marwell Zoo, we have supported a daytrip of our students and families to Paulton's Park and we have had a bespoke ,independent review our Health and Safety procedures and all policies updated with our highly experienced member for safeguarding Moira H. Well done, and thanks to all. We need Autumn term to start soon and our students back with us so we can get a rest...





This year would not have been the same, without the support of...

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MEMBER PROFILE:

Safeguarding, children's mental health and wellbeing

Moira Howorth

With over 35 years of experience in education, and specialisms in safeguarding and children's mental health and wellbeing, I am fully committed to the work of Plan B. I am passionate about supporting disadvantaged young people improve their life changes and firmly believe that this work makes a difference.

I look forward to working with John, Vikki and the whole team and hope that my experience can be of service.



STUDENTS PROFILE: Charley F

Having not been in any education placement whatsoever for his last year of school, Charley's mental health has really suffered by his own admission. That is why it was so important for us to give him a summer of work experience, helping with our community project, Pop up Paddle sports. He did not let us down and amongst all the other 'helpers' we had this summer became King of the beach, working tirelessly to get younger paddlers on and off the water safely and the boats 'turned around' ready for the next group. His stature visibly grew over the weeks and most importantly he proved to himself that he has a valuable place and giving to others is returned tenfold with improved mental health and increased self esteem amongst many other physical and anecdotal benefits. A big well done to Charley and we look forward to seeing him continue this positive progress in further education.



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