

Engage – Alternative Provision Report

The Engage programme has been running for a number of months now and it has been great to see the progression of all of our students. There has been a variety of age groups passing through the programme. To date all of our students have gone on to a positive progression including being accepted back into a school or behavioural improvements. The programme has focused on using sport as a social tool to combat poor behaviour and improve self-confidence. Predominately the programme works with students who have been expelled or are at risk of permanent exclusion from mainstream education. A few of the students have been lucky enough to seek employment through Northampton Saints working on match days in a customer facing environment, which is progression nobody thought was possible. The improvement in self-confidence and work ethic has a tribute to their hard work while on the programme at Northampton Saints.

Since late November 2015 nine students enrolled on the programme, currently there has been a positive progression for 100% of our students. Four of these students are currently on study leave due to sitting GCSE exam, one student has been placed back into mainstream education and we are still working closely with four students, two of which are based in care homes. The programme is constantly being adapted to meet the student's needs. Engage fully understands the importance of creating an individual progression pathway for each student. The programme constantly strives to improve our students' chances of success, both educational and emotionally by providing them with a clear path to a positive development.

We believe sport to be a fundamental part in our plan to improve the lives of the young people in our care. Working closely with local sports clubs we have been able to provide a sports provision which fits the needs of many students in the Northamptonshire area. We fully understand that mainstream education doesn't fit the need for every student therefore we use sport to foster a positive mental attitude, increase self-confidence, as well as overall fitness. Throughout this year the engage programme at Northampton Saints has gone from strength to strength, and we hope it will continue to inspire young people to believe in their own potential and self-confidence. As Engage is growing we are looking in to ways of expanding and reaching out to more young vulnerable students in the Northamptonshire area. To date Engage has been a great success, which is a tribute to the involvement of Always a Chance and the hard work of both the Social inclusion officer and our Hitz Manager.

By Jordan Letts (Social Inclusion Officer)