

Appendices: Action research project reports

Reports and resources from the 14 projects funded through the LSIS STEM Programme



Teaching and learning

Young Women in Science

Project 6: Young women's astronomy clubs, Longley Park Sixth Form College

Appendices

Full project reports

Reports and resources from the 14 funded projects.

Project 6: Young women's astronomy clubs

Organisation:

Longley Park Sixth Form College
Horninglow Road
Sheffield
S5 6SG

Type of organisation: The sixth form college is a widening participation college having about 1200 students in North East Sheffield. It is located in one of the most deprived areas in the country. The science courses offered include Physics, Chemistry, Biology and BTEC applied Science (level 2 and level 3)

Region: South Yorkshire

Project Leader: Ismail Musa

Title: Teacher of Science (Course Leader in Physics)

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Project background

Why did you decide to get involved with the project?

What did you want to get out of it?

To contribute to promoting Physics. I wanted the opportunity for young women from partner schools and within the college (who don't do Physics) to get involved in popular aspect of Physics

A working Astronomy Club for young women.

Objectives

Get more young women involved in Physics, in particular from partner schools who are in Y10.

Would young women be interested in popular aspect of Physics?

What actions did you take?

- Meeting with students in AS Physics
- Advertise the club
- Ordered equipment in telescope, binoculars etc.

What methods did you use

to answer your research

question(s)? (i.e. how did you find out whether you made any impact?)

A working club, with equipment and stationery.

Enrolled members in the club within college and members from partner schools

Impact

What impact have you seen so far?:

- No change?
- A little change?
- Substantial change?
- Major change?

Evidence of impact:

The club is running, now meeting every other week, although the plan is for it to meet once a month

9 young women from the college are now members, including some students studying other subjects such as media.

4 young women have been enrolled from a partner schools, Yewlands Secondary (year 10 students). They have attended one session at college. They will be attending the monthly meeting from September. The club is now well known within the science department and throughout the college. It will be advertised in future open evenings.

Posters about the club have gone out to all partner schools.

Membership cards have been constructed.

All students have been given subscription to the Liverpool Telescope – online real time observation.

What did and didn't work?

Having an "only young women" club attracted many young women of Asian origin, who have stated that they were unlikely to attend after college had it been mixed.

Dividing the club into two stages worked: In the summer the students have binoculars + online observation
In the winter observations will take place at college with the college telescope.

Benefit - personal and professional development

I learned a lot about astronomy. It shows that young women can be attracted to Physics if they are introduced to exciting subjects.

The future

We will have this on the college website. The club will also be mentioned in the network of sixth form colleges. From next year, we will have a newsletter that will be distributed to all partner schools.

Supporting materials

Equipment:: Telescope, binoculars, books on the night sky, membership cards, and posters advertising of the club, subscription to the Liverpool Telescope and a PowerPoint presentation / Photo story presentation of the club. Contact the project leader if interested.

The LSIS STEM Programme

These resources are examples of outputs from the LSIS STEM Programme's action research projects; they have been produced by managers and practitioners. The contents should not be compared with commercially produced resources, although in many cases they may have comparable or better learning outcomes.

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