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BRIDGNORTH

YOUTH & SCHOOLS PROJECT

YEAR 13 REPORT

www.bridgnorthyouthandschoolsproject.co.uk



WELCOME TO YEAR 13

It's incredible to reflect on the completion of our 13th year with the Bridgnorth Schools Project. One of the most significant changes this year has been stepping away from managing The Bridge Youth Centre. While our journey with The Bridge was wonderful, it felt like the right time for both charities to focus on their distinct visions for the future.

Without The Bridge, we've had the opportunity to rethink what BYSP should look like in this new phase. One key aspect The Bridge provided was a space for young people to gather. In its absence, we've shifted focus even more strongly onto our weekly school programmes. This year, 53 young people have attended the LEGO Club at Oldbury Wells, which has grown into a hub of fun, creativity, and support for the students.

Our STIR Group has seen significant growth, with 26 young people attending over the year. The group has now expanded to two age-specific groups with five leaders supporting the sessions. We also hosted our annual Anchored Event at St James' Hall, welcoming 25 young people for a wonderful time of fellowship and connection.

I'm especially excited to highlight Hikaru, a brand-new schoolwork resource that has been launched this year. You'll find more details about it near the back of this report. Thank you so much for your continued support. I hope this report encourages you as we reflect on the impact of this year's work and look forward to what's ahead.

John





STATISTICS

544 ATTENDED WORKSHOPS

Over the course of the year we held workshops using our new resource, Hikaru, and year 6 transitions workshops.

23 ATTENDED STIR

Stir is a group where young people learn more about faith in Jesus. 14 of the group also attended the Satellites Festival in the summer.

25 ATTENDED ANCHORED

Anchored is our Children's event. This was early in the school year, and a great success.

7 STUDENTS MENTORED

This year we mentored young people in school and in their homes.

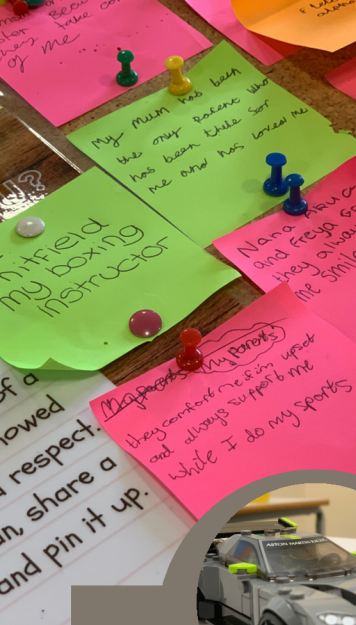
40 ASSEMBLIES DELIVERED

We took 26 primary school assemblies, and 14 secondary school assemblies.

WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

If you've ever seen a BYSP report, you'll know instinctively that we love numbers, and that we try to record everything we do.

Of course the challenge with any statistic is trying to figure out what it means. For us these statistics (and the many others we collate) represent meeting every young person, following them through their entire education journey, and giving them opportunities to grow mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Building good, fruitful relationships is a top priority.



SCHOOLS WORK

'Because of Lego club, Monday has become my happiest day at school.'

Student

This student was truanting, and over two terms of meetings, we figured out the reasons why they were doing it and put strategies in place for the student to use. The student stopped skipping school and ended the year with a good attendance record.

Mentoring story

Bridgnorth Youth & Schools Project's schools work has become wonderfully varied once again over the past year.

During the school year, we mentored 7 young people, welcomed 53 students to a lunchtime Lego club, delivered 26 assemblies in primary schools and 14 in secondary schools, and ran transition workshops for 129 Year 6 pupils.

In addition, we organised a series of workshops for 415 pupils across both primary and secondary schools.

The aim of our schools ministry is to support education, build meaningful relationships with students, and share our faith in Jesus in appropriate and respectful ways.



ANCHORED

“Both my children have loved today, they’ve come home telling me all about the stories songs and games they’ve played. They can’t wait to come to the Friday club thank you”

Parent

“Anchored helped my children learn about Jesus in a fun way”

Parent

The aim of Anchored is to provide a fun Christian holiday club for children that serves the local church using resources, expertise and the brand name associated with BYSP. The key for this event is to use our collective strength to communicate a safe and accessible programme that families are learning to trust.

Anchored is a gift to the local church, who in turn, helps us facilitate the event and get to know families who might not generally send their children to an activity promoted by one individual church fellowship.

This year we had 25 young people,



STIR

“Just wanted to thank you all for your work with Stir. My daughter has come home tonight absolutely buzzing about the new book and the things she heard about tonight.

I’ve had to push her upstairs to bed as she would have sat reading quotes to me and chatting about all the big questions of faith all night.”

Parent

STIR is our Christian discipleship group. This year we met once a fortnight to eat, pray, learn, and have fun.

We have young people attending from The Bridge and young people who are associated with a number of churches in and around Bridgnorth.

This year, STIR has begun to balloon in size, with 23 young people meeting regularly on a Sunday evening.

During the year, 2 young people gave their lives to Jesus, 5 young people came to serve at the Anchored Event, 2 did work experience with us in schools, and 14 attended the Satellites Festival and the STIR Gathering events in Telford.



HIKARU

NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

"I really enjoyed John's workshop because he made it fun and lively by getting us to predict the characters personality.

He also asked us to create our own characters. He put us into groups and we did activities together. His book was absolutely amazing."
Student

Hikaru is a new initiative by Catalyst Youth Trust, a charity founded by John in 2017. It combines an evangelistic novel, an allegory of the gospel, with a series of school workshops.

This year, John launched the Hikaru workshops in Bridgnorth, engaging 415 students. Each student not only learned about the book but also received a personal copy.

The workshops are tailored to different age groups. Year 6 students explore the message of Jesus through a storytelling workshop. Year 7 and 8 students engage with the story in a resilience workshop, while Year 11 and post-16 students discuss Hikaru in a session on beliefs about Jesus.

Our aim is to help young people on their journey to adulthood, taking every opportunity given to us in schools to share biblical truths with them through workshops, assemblies, RE lessons, and lunch clubs, as well as through events in the community. For those seeking to explore faith or grow in their faith, our two STIR Groups provide fellowship and discipleship, building solid biblical foundations for their future lives.

Now in our 14th year, we want to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to those who make it all possible through financial and prayerful support.

Thank you to all who pray faithfully for our work. We recognise that we are in a spiritual battle for the minds, hearts, and spirits of our young people, and the pressures on them seem to increase every year.

Thank you to Bridgnorth Baptist Church and Cartway Methodist Church for their continued financial support each year since the very beginning of the project, to the Bridgnorth Parish Charity for their support over the last seven years, and to St Nicholas Church, Oldbury, for their contributions.

We are also deeply grateful to several generous individuals who support our work on a regular basis.

Without your support, we would not have had the opportunity to touch the lives of so many young people in schools and the community.

Finally, a big 'Thank You' to John for his tireless work, without which the Project would not exist.

Please continue to pray for John in his work, and if you feel prompted, consider supporting the Project financially. Inflation has affected us all, and we currently face a shortfall of about £3,000 for the coming year.

Keith Bowley

Chair of Management Board