



JusB

A brighter future for young people in Bromley
JusB Ltd 51 College Road Bromley Kent BR1 3PU
020 8464 2722 www.jusb.co.uk

Project Manager
Ned McWhirter
ned@jusb.co.uk

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Looking back over 2021...

2021, unfortunately, started very similar to 2020, with more restrictions on the services we could offer. Thankfully, things are now back to normal and in February 2022, we were able to offer a full programme with unrestricted provision, this first time in almost 2 years.

2021 was, like the previous year, full of restrictions and lockdowns. This again was a very difficult year for young people as they struggled with missed school and other educational opportunities. Where we could, we provided practical help and support. One of these was working with other charities, sourcing laptops to give to young people so that they could catch-up with school work and keep in touch with us. When we could open at times we focused on our homework club, extended those hours and provided personal tuition from volunteers so that young people were supported in catching up in their studies.

Zoom classes were the norm again at the start of last year with us not being permitted to run normal clubs and only meeting young people for one-to-one sessions. Even then we tried to provide as much variety of activities as possible. One of these was working in partnership with an Art club (via zoom) helping our young people create expressive poems that would be embedded into new street furniture on Bromley High Street.

When we were able to open, still under restrictions, we provided a service concentrating on supporting young people to catch up on missed school work and helping them to prepare for a new working era which would be more digital. As I said before, we extended our homework club hours and brought in volunteer tutors to help with subjects like maths. We also ran a series of digital learning workshops, helping young people to understand and prepare for a new working environment, which is very much online. This included sessions on how to find and apply for jobs online but also how to prepare for video interviews. This was a very well received course. Our half-term projects were also very different as the general public were advised to use public transport only when necessary. Instead of doing trips during the May half-term we used the time to refit our kitchen with new cupboards and flooring (kindly donated by a local flooring shop) the young people painted all the walls and doors. This was not only fantastic fun, with practical learning and a great team building experience.

Our summer programme was also under restrictions but, thankfully, we were able to borrow a minibus from Brook Lane Community Church, so we could go on trips. A varied timetable was created to address the wellbeing and mindfulness and enjoyment, so due to the fact that on the previous year all venues were closed, we took advantage this year and organised trips which included: Go Ape which challenged physical aspects, Southend-on-Sea beach, Thorpe Park, Holland Park where we visited the Japanese Garden and took the opportunity to hold a photography competition taking pictures of the natural plants and wildlife, plus a boat trip to Greenwich Park and Westminster where we walked around the Houses of Parliament.

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To keep active, we visited local parks, where there was social interaction, X-Factor performances, music and dance, team games, tennis, badminton, cycling, roller skating, skateboarding and walks through the woods. Those who were good at skateboarding and skating shared tips with those who hadn't yet worked out a technique.

On the final day of the summer programme we had a fun day at St Mary's church garden where we invited the young people to attend with parents and siblings. This event gave us the opportunity to meet and interact with the families and hear their positive feedback about how JusB has been helping their young people.

We were invited to be part of the Lord Mayor's Show in November this year, by one of our supporters 'The Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers'. This involved our young people making bees and candles for the float, then two of them and myself took part in the parade with the float. This was a great experience for the young people involved.

Another new partnership and experience was linking up with Bromley Little Theatre. Through this we had a tour of the building to see 'behind the scenes' and this encouraged some young people to attend the youth company. One of our young people has a leading part in a production due to start soon. This is another new and confidence building experience which we are able to offer which our young people may not have been able to access otherwise.

We had to say farewell to some staff and trustees this year, Cecil left us as a trustee having served us faithfully for a number of years, though he stays on as our Chaplain, and Eloise, our assistant youth worker, also left after three years. Both have given a great contribution to the work of JusB. We recruited three new trustees over the year and they are already showing that they are great assets to our team, particularly around Human Resources and Fundraising.

In closing, I would like to thank the trustees and staff for their support and diligence to ensure that we continue to operate as a business and to serve the young people of Bromley.

Best wishes



Ned McWhirter
Project Manager



Getting creative with bee and candle making



The Worshipful Master with young people from JusB on the Wax Chandlers float