

the gap*

investing in young people

Autumn NEWS LETTER

The gap* is a Registered Charity.
Charity Number: 1127347



Oh, What A Night!

The gap held their annual 'thank you' to their supporters at the delightful Oikos Café in Erdington and what a night it turned out to be! Hosted by project manager David along with the lovely Zabrina and Laura, the evening provided it's guests with a three course meal and drinks, entertainment and information about some of the gap's achievements and plans. The food cooked by Ben and his fabulous team was first class and was served by gap* staff, volunteers and the lovely Chantel, one of the young people who attends our Venue drop-in. The evening was made all the more special by a fantastic team of helpers and volunteers who set out tables, inflated balloons, provided background music and on screen images.

The musical entertainment came courtesy of two young people who are students at Fairfax school where the gap* runs it's HeadSpace project. Ashton provided some versatile vocals accompanied by Queen, whilst young Aliyah overcame her nerves to give us some beautiful song covers including Elton John's Your Song. Both performers received rapturous applause from an enthusiastic and encouraging audience. The evening was then 'hi-jacked' by the gregarious and hilarious Sheila McMahon who somehow managed to entrap some of the gap* team into displaying their abilities at Irish Dancing (safe to say the Project Manager seemed to get the biggest cheer!!). It was an evening of being able to say a genuine thank you to all those who have supported (and continue to support) the gap* and the work it does... without whom it would never happen.

Project manager, David shared his intentions of stepping down from the role in 2020 (see reverse) and went on to encourage everyone to continue to support the fab team the gap* currently has. The night also saw a raffle take place with some great prizes being offered via the generosity of local businesses CarrTech, The Entertainer, Empire Cinema...we are so grateful to everyone and hope that all of you in attendance enjoyed it as much as we did.

Over the last few months we are indebted to the following for their financial support:
Great Midland Fun Run • Alice E. Wood Charitable Trust
William A. Cadbury Charitable Trust • Alfred Haines Charitable Trust
PayPal Giving Fund • The Goodenough Charitable Trust • The Albert Hunt Trust



PASSING ON THE BATON

A message from Project Manager, David West-Mullen...

"After almost 9 years of managing the gap* and it's projects, I am looking to step down from the role as Project Manager at the end of March 2020. It has been a real privilege helping to build on the established foundations of the work founded by Charlie Clayton and Steve Silverton back in 2008 as they saw a great need for somewhere for young people to belong and be. The past eight and a half years have not been without it's challenges but for me it has been the sheer number of young people who have passed through our doors, drank our hot chocolate mountains, played endless pool, Xbox, football, basketball, rapped in our studio or sat and chatted with our staff and volunteers. All the young people who we have helped into jobs, apprenticeships, college and Uni, who we have supported, housed, accompanied to court, visited in prison and hospitals. We often only have a limited window of opportunity to touch people's lives at the gap* and it is this aspect I would probably miss most. I aim to still be a part of the gap*'s structure, initially remaining as a Trustee and a network consultant, but will just not be part of the active day-to-day running of the project. This is where I will be 'passing the baton' onto the highly capable, Zabrina who will be taking over the team management as well as continuing to co-ordinate HeadSpace and who would be ably supported by Laura and new part-time youth worker Andrew. I am excited as to what the future holds for the gap* as it enters into it's 12th year of existence. I am personally immensely grateful to all our supporters and partners, agencies and Councilors, prayers and funders and I do earnestly pray that they continue to show their support for this well-established initiative. My biggest thanks will always be to the literally hundreds of young people who, over the years, have let us into their lives to help, guide and encourage them in realizing their worth and potential - it has been a great privilege to serve them"

THE VENUE



"For You are my hope;
O Lord GOD,
You are my confidence
from my youth"

Psalms
71:5

We welcome back Andrew to the team. Andrew volunteered for us 18 months ago at Venue, though he is now going to be a part-time paid staff member covering Venue and some HeadSpace work. He is eager to get started and has a real passion for working with young people, especially in one-to-one situations...we say welcome aboard Andrew!

Earlier this year The gap* received some funding for items we could use in the VENUE drop-in and we have obtained an Air Hockey Table and a Safety Dart Board. Safe to say they are being put to good use!



JOE ON THE GO!

Hi my name is Joe and I've been working with the gap in their HeadSpace project for a few months now which is something I have really enjoyed. I've been able to make a relationship with the amazing team they have as Zabrina, Dave and Laura have been so helpful in supporting me supplying everything I need to work in this role. However, an opportunity has arisen for me to be able to go to South Korea in February 2020 to attend a Discipleship Training School (DTS) course with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) and I really feel this is where God wants me to be for this time. I'm really hoping to get a lot out of this experience and to be able to grow as a Christian man - a man in Christ, as I want God to change many things in my life and I hope in doing this course I will experience those changes. The course will comprise of 12 weeks of training, and then going to another country to apply what I've learned through missionary work. As yet I don't know what country it will be but will know nearer the time.*



I'm really going to miss being able to help young people with the varying issues they face. But hopefully I'll be returning in Summer 2020 as someone in a much closer relationship with God and more able to offer support, inspiration and help to young people.

£1,420

**GREAT MIDLANDS
FUN RUN**
ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD Walk, Jog or Run

2019 saw an amazing amount raised by our runners, Marshalls and the Great Midland Fun Run committee towards the work of the gap*. It was a great day and we are in awe of what you guys all did to raise this amount and the dedication you had to do it for us. Let's see if we can make an even bigger impact next year!!