



Success story

Working with schools

This briefing tells the story of Portsmouth Society's "What I like about my City" project for schools.

Background

As part of the celebrations for Civic Day in 2011, the Portsmouth Society decided to run a competition for Year 7 pupils entitled "What I like about my City". The Society focused on creative ideas and views on Portsmouth, and selected six categories to enable students to show their imagination to the full. The different mediums that each student could use were:

1. Essay covering one topic area, maximum 500 words
2. Poem, maximum 300 words
3. Photographic project, up to 6 photographs mounted with a summary statement of up to 100 words on an A2 board
4. Art piece in any medium (includes drawing, painting, textile, model-work or sculpture) with a maximum size of 35cm x 35cm x 35cm
5. Publicity design project, to be displayed in hard copy format. (for example: an advert for a local attraction, promotional leaflet about an aspect of the City, or a publicity campaign for a community project)
6. Visual media design project, a website or a short film (maximum 2 minutes) about an aspect, activity or building in the city for example

What

Portsmouth Society wanted to promote a positive attitude about Portsmouth among the younger generation and encourage pride in local amenities and culture. It was also be used as an opportunity to raise the profile of the Portsmouth Society, particularly to a wider audience, and to gain new members.

What I like about my city

This schools project for year 7 pupils enabled them to demonstrate their creative ideas about Portsmouth in a medium of their choice. Awards were for the imagination and vision shown in the completion of these projects, rather than a reward for skill level in the chosen medium. All Portsmouth schools were invited to participate and this should be done via telephone calls, letters and personal contacts. Working with a school is not easy, but once you make the breakthrough, the rewards will come through.

**What I like
about my City**

A year-7 Creative Project for Portsmouth Schools

CIVIC DAY
In celebration of National Civic Day
Saturday 25th June 2011



Coordinated by The Portsmouth Society

Involvement

The students showed a remarkable pride and interest in local heritage, tradition and culture across a wide variety of issues. Entries included Naval pride, the Spinnaker tower, The Guildhall, and Portsmouth Football Club, with the participating schools covering all levels of academic achievement.

A promotional stand showcasing the work was displayed in city centre's Cascades Shopping Centre for five days, by kind permission of the centre Management. The promotional stand brought a large amount of interest from the general public, who had never previously heard of civic groups. The Portsmouth Society managed to gain some new members via the exhibition stand.



Success

There was also an awards ceremony and the Portsmouth Society was particularly pleased that so many school teachers, pupils and parents filled the exhibition area of the library for the awards ceremony, none of whom were members.

There was an Exhibition of Students' Work in Portsmouth Central Library and the Lord Mayor presented prizes to the winner and runner up in each category on Civic Day itself. In addition everyone who participated received a certificate recognising their hard work.

The future

So what of the future? After taking advice from Sharon Watt the Head Teacher of the City of Portsmouth Girls' School the Executive Committee has decided to promote the Schools' Project bi-annually, so as not to "overload" the schools and ourselves. During this school year, the Society will take "soundings" on how to involve more young people, either through a co-option(s) onto the Executive Committee or setting up a separate young person's group.

Contact

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