

Monday 6th February 2017

I am writing as Headteacher of St Peter & St Paul CE Primary School about the impact of being part of the Young Journalist Academy.

We have worked with the Young Journalist Academy Programme over a number of years now. Initially we were looking for an avenue to engage children in writing for a purpose to a broader audience. From the outset it was obvious that the programme was delivering much more than this.

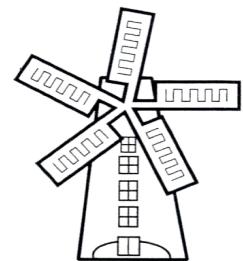
Within YJA the children develop speaking and listening skills and the ability to communicate to a range of audiences. Many of the children became motivated to produce articles or audio articles on a regular basis and explored opportunities for "stories" themselves. Some of these included writing to the minister for transport and then being invited to go to London to interview leaders in London underground. Children have also led teacher training at the London BETT show supported by the YJA group.

Teaching staff have also developed their skills in including digital media in their teaching working alongside staff from the YJA programme. Supporting the school in achieving Lincolnshire LAFTA awards.

Many of the children involved in the programme have gone on to produce thoughtful reflective pieces and articles to support them in achieving above the national expectations in writing. The inspiration to purposefully write has been marked and had a hugely positive effect on attainment. In more recent years the YJA group has also included children with SEND to develop their communication skills and social inclusion.

The programme has also afforded our children to have some amazing experiences that without the programme would not have been made possible.

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