



Next Steps (Transitions)

Information for Schools



In 2018/19, Half Moon were awarded the commission for the '11 Year Old Pilot Programme' by Tower Hamlets Youth Service (THYS). Half Moon specifically engaged with schools and external agencies to refer young people to the programme, who were deemed at risk of disengagement, and vulnerable through their transition. This has run every summer since.

ALL SESSIONS WERE FREE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Young people attended from **73 schools** across Tower Hamlets (53 primary and 20 secondary)
In total, we have worked with **915 young people** so far.

THE PROGRAMME

The sessions supported the young people to prepare for their transition to secondary school and think about the situations they might face and positive ways to deal with new experiences. The young people also learned to better express themselves, built their confidence and developed soft skills, such as effective communication, presentation, decision-making, taking responsibility and making a commitment. The young people played an active role in having the 'power to change' negative outcomes in a safe environment, acting as observers and critical thinkers with their peers. Themes addressed in the sessions included bullying, online safety, friendships, identity and responsibilities.

REASONS FOR REFERRAL INCLUDED:

Not aware of his potential of getting into trouble at school. X does not learn from his mistakes and lacks awareness of the impact of his behaviour on others, himself and his future.

Immature, can be withdrawn, closed and not express emotions. Occasionally can appear down. On the other hand, he can become over-excited, giggly and easily led so could get into trouble by associating with stronger personalities.

Lacks confidence, nervous about secondary school and making new friends.

Social care recently engaged with family after we requested assessment as parents have very limited understanding of ASD and risks to X as she gets older (at risk of inappropriate behaviour if prompted by others).

The reasons for referral reflect how striking the evidence is to support a provision for those transitioning from primary to secondary school.

Participant feedback

(Next Steps) has helped me open up about my problems and ask for help. I felt listened to... I understand what consequences mean now, and how to think before I do something.

Parent feedback

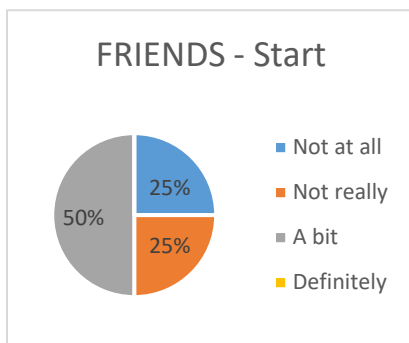
It's allowed X to experience a version of what Secondary School may be like socially. She has been exposed to the fact that she isn't the only one with the same concerns of the unknown. She has been talking about it and feels she knows what to do now.

Teacher feedback

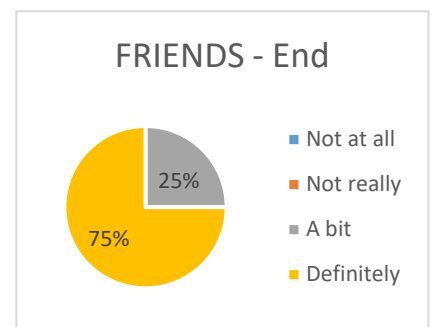
We have referred pupils to the Half Moon Next Steps programme as we have seen their workshops first-hand and seen the enjoyment and confidence that children gain in them. The workshops are tailored to address the fears and worries primary pupils have about secondary school as stated by them. They are presented in familiar language to the pupils, which makes them feel understood and comfortable. I have seen children gain independence, responsibility and confidence through the Half Moon Theatre workshops.

Participant responses to pre- and post-project questionnaires:

I feel like I will make friends easily:

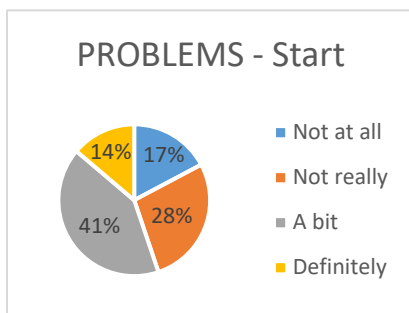


At the start of their journeys, there were no young people who felt that they would *definitely* make friends easily at secondary school. At the end of the programme, 75% of participants believed they would definitely make friends easily with none of the participants still worrying about their ability to make friends.

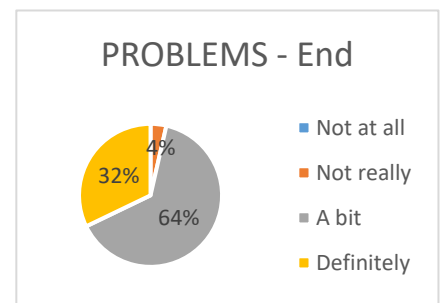


Parent responses to pre- and post-project questionnaires:

My child feels confident about how they have handled problems at secondary school:



At the start of the programme, 55% of parents believed their child did *not really* or *not at all* feel confident about handling potential problems at secondary school. By the end of the programme, 96% of parents believed their child felt confident about handling problems at secondary school.



Half Moon would like to thank all schools, and external agencies for their referrals.