

Selection of Evaluation Quotes from 2014 Unlocking day trips and residential.

Well- being

“We were made to feel extremely welcome and felt safe and secure. We noticed one girl in particular who seemed a bit unsure, visibly relax in the atmosphere of calm reassurance.”

9/4/14 Angela A, Woolly Wood Special School, Sheffield

“It was a nice summary of the terms study. Helped the students not only cognitively, but emotionally and added to their personal and social well being.”

15/4/14 Elizabeth J, PACES School, Sheffield

“All students have enjoyed the experience from joining in as a team member, steering the boat and opening the lock gates, to feeling the air, the motor of the boat, the shadow of the bridge, the sound of the factories, eating outside in the sunshine...”

29/4/14 Catherine B, Kelford Special School, Rotherham

“students we have brought display challenging behaviours at times and to see them so relaxed, it’s been a pleasure.”

30/4/14 Angela D, Kelford School

“Camaraderie, team spirit, helping everyone else with the locks, etc. All great experience to promote these ideals with pupils who are often extremely ego centric and not naturally team players.”

17/3/14 Judith E, Bents Green Special School

“Can’t believe how calm one boy was, he is often agitated in school, but on the water he was smiling and cheering. I think he could cheerfully do it all week.”

14/3/14 Liz R, Seven Hills Special School, Sheffield

“All children were calm, happy, smiling, singing ... This has been a good therapeutic experience for all types of children, autistic children were particularly calm and focused.”

4/3/14 Carole W, Woolly Wood

Social Skills

“The students we took have trouble communicating their emotions and general needs. The trip was essential in bringing these young people together in positively expressing themselves, improving their skills and quality of life.”

19/6/14 Liam S, The Sheffield College

“Interaction with the crew and safe strangers was a massive achievement for some.”

21/4/14 Lin M, Yorkshire Autism Cafe

“The trip was an excellent opportunity for the children to experience something completely different to their school day. Several of our children find breaks in their routine challenging and can cause anxiety, the children commented on how fun and relaxing it felt on the boat which created a calm environment.”

4/4/14 Nathalie, Rowan Special School, Sheffield

“All our students have autism and quite a few struggle with new challenges and unknown environments. This experience pushes them out of their comfort zone in a safe, well planned and enjoyable way.”

17/3/14 Judith E, Bents Green

Practical skills

“There were so many opportunities during the day to work together and naturally enhance social skills. The children were happy with tasks, communicating, but most of all, being together.”

9/1/14 Angela A, Woolly Wood

“The young people took turns in negotiating locks and aiding with steering. It was clear to see the sense of enjoyment and accomplishment making them feel their contributions was valued and part of the team.”

19/6/14 Liam S, The Sheffield College

“New opportunities for steering the boat and having responsibility for opening and closing locks and gates, helped members turn take and try their patience and waiting skills, very hard to practise for those on the autism spectrum.”

21/4/14 Lin M, Yorkshire Autism Cafe

“The sheers enjoyment has given pupils a sense of learning together as a team and working in a multi sensory environment with regard to working with peers and adult involvement, speaking, listening, hands on and looking and listening in a new environment.”

2/4/14 Samantha A, Rowan School

“Pupils have autism and don’t like change in their routine and find joining in hard but they had a great time steering and unlocking the lock. This gave them the opportunity to learn new skills and work as a team.”

28/3/14 Debbie T, Newman Special School

Money

“The availability of these trips enables many young people to attend from a variety of

backgrounds and is much appreciated.”

11/4/14 Cheryl R, RIVA Project

“Our group could not afford this opportunity without the help of the Ethel Trust.”

25/4/14 Cheryl R, Hi 5

“It is amazing that the ethel trust is able to secure the funding to offer these trips, without it we would really struggle to find the funds to do what we have done. It gives such fantastic opportunities to so many young people.”

30/5/14 Cheryl R, Hi 5

“This trip could only go ahead due to being offered a funded place as we are a small self funded voluntary group spread widely across South Yorkshire.”

21/4/14 Lin M, Yorkshire Autism Cafe

“It’s been a really enjoyable day out for all our children. They have been engaged and motivated all day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They’ve had new opportunities to try exciting skills and the crew have been brilliant with the children. The fact that it was free was fantastic as it meant we could offer the trip to a larger number of children.”

3/4/14 Kate S, Rowan Special Primary

“I can’t believe it’s free, we are hoping to come back again to develop skills learnt, low income families will benefit from day trips/residential. It has been amazing.”

30/4/14 Andrea D, Kelford Special School

“As there was no charge all students are able to come, promoting inclusion for all.”

5/3/14 Alexander W, Bents Green Special School

“Because it was free we were able to bring all of the children and find extra staff to keep the children safe.”

17/2/14 Adele D, Nether Green Primary

Need

“An experience perhaps most children couldn’t or wouldn’t be able to access through family situations.”

2/4/14 Samantha A, Rowan Special Primary, Sheffield

Development

“This experience has shown our students their true potential when sometimes life isn’t that easy for them. We would definitely like to come again; it has been amazing for their development.”

19/6/14 Liam S, The Sheffield College, Hillsborough Practical Skills

Confidence

“One student usually shows caution in trying new experiences, yet her willingness to participate and contribute to new challenges really was a joy to see due to the Ethel Barge.”

19/6/14 Liam S, The Sheffield College, Hillsborough Practical Skills

“A student who has great difficulty accessing community experiences gained a massive amount of self esteem and his confidence has improved no end, he is learning to face his fears and accept new challenges.”

18/3/14 Dave S, Wilsic Residential Special School, Doncaster

“It was amazing to see how brave some of the students were when we had to help with the lock. James can be shy but he loved helping with the bridge, it boosted his confidence to have complete strangers thank him, I’ll treasure that moment.”

14/3/14 Elizabeth R, Seven Hills Special School, Sheffield

“Students are apprehensive to try new activities and have no self belief in what they can achieve with the right support from both ourselves and the excellent crew. They are encouraged to give it a go. The confidence they gain in themselves is immeasurable and they go on to try new things when they are at home.”

27/6/14 Cheryl R, RIVA Project, Sheffield