



Widening Participation Department
Educated Pass
Annual Report 2015

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1. Overview 2015-16

Five squads were involved in this year's Educated Pass programme, all completing seven sessions across the year. On later sessions, we brought clubs in to work together, which was undoubtedly beneficial for the boys.

The programme was introduced to two new members of staff, as previous staff moved on, whilst Dr. Neil Speirs remained as Project Manager.

Throughout the year, we worked with a variety of partners, including local colleges and Hibernian Football Club. Although the involvement with The Edinburgh University Association Football Club (EUAFC) was not as strong as before, we were still helped by the club and appreciate their contributions.

2. The Educated Pass Rationale

Educated Pass aims to address the academic underachievement of boys in the 13 to 16 year-old age group. The gender gap, in attainment and progression onto Higher Education in particular has received increasing attention from the government over the last decade. The Educated Pass initiative works with local youth football clubs to engage the boys, their coaches and their families in education opportunities. Working via local youth football clubs brings added credibility to a message, which is often lost in the school environment.

Boys who struggle academically or who come from backgrounds with low aspirations can easily feel excluded from mainstream education. Aspirations, expectations and the whole frame of reference for boys come from the wider community in which they grow up. Educated Pass is innovative in that it does not rely on working through schools; instead, boys are targeted, in particular those from under-represented groups, through their local youth football clubs and coaches. It builds upon their commitment to sport in order to generate a similar interest and commitment towards their education. While giving advice on school, and college and university pathways,

the initiative initially uses sport related courses to engage the boys' interest, whilst also demonstrating that educational and career opportunities exist outside the sporting sphere.

3. Project Management

3.1 Funding and Resources

Educated Pass is a initiative developed by The University of Edinburgh's Widening Participation department, and has been funded by the Sutton Trust since 2008.

The Sutton Trust is an educational charity which aims to provide educational opportunities to young people from underprivileged backgrounds.

More information about the Sutton Trust can be found at their website; www.suttontrust.com

3.2 Partners

The University of Edinburgh is the lead partner for Educated Pass. The university hosts the office base for the management of the programme, as well as hosting sessions at the Centre for Sport and Exercise (CSE) and Peffermill playing fields.

The Scottish Youth Football Association (SYFA) provides a consultative and advisory role in the initiative. They give creditability to the programMe for the clubs involved and demonstrate a true partnership between sport and education.

This year, partnerships with Edinburgh College and West Lothian College were reestablished, each hosting a session for their neighbouring clubs.

Further, a great partnership with Hibernian Football Club was set up during the year. Hibs hosted a session at their first class training centre in Tranent, East Lothian, allowing the boys to experience and make use of their facilities.

3.3 Staffing

Dr. Neil Speirs continued his role as Project Manager for Educated Pass. New members of staff, Aaron Hodgson and Charles Lang, joined the programme as previous members left the team. Both Aaron and Charles helped with presenting the sessions, coaching, and relevant administration. Jak Purkiss, previous team member and EUAFC captain, also helped out with a couple of sessions.

4.Clubs involved

We continued to work with two Edinburgh City teams, Murrieston Reds and Blues, Musselburgh Windsor, and started working with Polbeth United.

All five teams were committed to the programme, putting in a lot of effort throughout every session with.

The team coaches and parents were particularly helpful and understood the benefits of the programme, for which we are very thankful.

5. Sessions

5.1 Learning Outcomes

A series of interactive sessions have been developed which use the medium of football to raise the academic aspirations of boys engaging them, their coaches and their parents in the educational opportunities available to them. Each session has specific objectives and learning outcomes.

The content of the presentations is deliberately football driven; drawing on quotes and examples from role model players, managers and prominent figures in the professional game. The purpose of which is to harness the inspirational status that these individuals have achieved on the football pitch, and project it onto attainment in the classroom.

5.2 Sessions Overviews

De Toekmost (October – December)

An interactive presentation that brings credibility to education through the medium of football. Statistics on becoming a professional footballer are presented alongside case studies highlighting the overlap in skill, attitude and commitment between the classroom and the pitch. Particular focus is placed on the youth academy of AFC Ajax, where education is prioritised over football. The possibility of academic achievement leading to alternative careers in sport is discussed. This session takes place before each team's training session, at their respective facilities. Parents were also invited to join a free online course (MOOC) ran by the university titled 'Football: More than a Game'.

Football and Education (February – March)

An informal presentation, followed by an hour of fitness, both taking place in the University's Centre of Sport and Exercise. The presentation looks at those working in a non-playing role at professional clubs, such as managers, physios, accountants, lawyers and architects, and highlights in particular the qualifications and skills they achieved in order to fulfill these vocations. The session includes a question and answer session with Educated Pass student staff, Aaron and Charles, who discussed their lives and University, both academic and extra-curricular.

Language of the Game (March – May)

Again taking place at the CSE, this session involves a one-hour presentation based on the different languages used in football. It demonstrates the different qualities used in the sport and highlights the benefits of knowing a language. It aims to show that learning a language can be enjoyable when related to an interesting aspect, in this case football. The presentation was followed by a strength and conditioning session led by Aaron and Charles, with help from Jak Purkks, former Educated Pass staff member and captain of EUAFC.

Anatomy of the Game (March – May)

The boys took part in a session covering the body's anatomy, focusing particularly on the legs. Showing the importance of keeping healthy and fit, recovering from injuries and educating the boys about the body. There was also a lengthy discussion with the players and coaches about nutrition and eating healthily. The teams were

then involved in a skills-based training session at the University's Peffermill training fields, led by Aaron and Charles.

College Sessions (March – May)

The boys visited their local colleges, West Lothian and Edinburgh, and were given an introduction to the college by the college staff, particularly focused on sports related courses. They also took part in a physical session which was led by the college, using their great facilities.

Rights of the Game (May)

This new session took place at Hibernian Football Club's training facilities at Tranent. The boys were involved in a one-hour presentation focused on humanitarian issues existing across the globe. By looking at global campaigns like 'Show Racism the Red Card' and humanitarian work done by individual players, this session aimed to develop the world view of the boys, whilst allowing them to open up in discussion. Following this, the boys were then able to make use of the first class training facilities that Hibs had to offer.

Le Tournoi (August)

The final sessions was a tournament event celebrating the success of this year's programme. The tournament was open to all clubs that engaged throughout the year and serves as motivational reminder for the boys to give their best throughout the coming year; both in the classroom and on the pitch.

6. Attitudinal Questionnaire Analysis

The boys completed attitudinal questionnaires in the first session with Educated Pass. The questionnaire ranged from their interest in sport, to their attitudes towards education.

- Boys were asked to fill in two questionnaires; one at the first session and one at the last
- Both questionnaires were exactly the same
- 97 attitudinal questionnaires were returned first time
- 64 attitudinal questionnaires were returned second time

6.1 Higher Education Exposure

The questionnaire helped indicate their background with regards to Higher Education and whether they have had exposure to Higher Education through their parents. In the first questionnaire, the majority of boys were not sure as to whether either their mother or father attended college or university (65% and 72% respectively). Likewise, the second questionnaire also showed this. The number of mothers to attend college was highest in both questionnaires (18% the first time, and 22% the second time).

When asked what universities and colleges they were aware of in Scotland, The University of Edinburgh proved most popular with 55% noting it in the first questionnaire, with the second being Edinburgh Napier University with 38%. Colleges proved to be overwhelmingly unknown in the first questionnaires, however, in the second questionnaire 67% were aware of either West Lothian or Edinburgh College, which they visited during the programme.

6.2 School Performance and Preferences

Students were asked to self assess their enjoyment and behavior levels at school.

In the first questionnaire, when asked if they tried their best at school, the results were as follows:

- 'Yes, always' – 40% 52%
- 'Sometimes' - 52%
- 'No, never – 8% '

When asked if they tried their best at training, the results were quite different:

- 'Yes, always' – 72%
- 'Sometimes' – 24%
- 'No, never' – 4%

Similarly, when asked whom they respected more, teacher or coach, in both questionnaires the majority of boys answered their coach.

1st questionnaire

- Coach – 75%
- Teacher – 25%

2nd questionnaire

- Coach – 64%
- Teacher – 36%

The boys were also asked to note their favourite subject(s) at school, with the three most popular being Physical Education (80%), Computing (47%) and Maths (42%). Given their interest in football and sport, the popularity of Physical Education is unsurprising.

Each question here can be given in support of why Educated Pass uses sport, in particular football, to engage the boys in education.

7. Coach and Parent Feedback

“Educated Pass was extremely worthwhile and provided perspective which was very interesting and relevant to all as it liked sports and the importance of education as well as highlighting some important social issues.”

“If Educated Pass inspires just one child every year to think differently about their future, then it will have been worth it. Without it, horizons are narrower and aspirations less ambitious, and our society less diverse and more restricted.”

“It was really good for everyone to meet student who had played football at a very high level. I hope that it made some aware of the different career paths that are possible in to relation football, other than premier league goal scoring.”

“As a parent, I found it very interesting and informative for myself and my son.”

“The guys were great with the kids and kept them engaged, and they thoroughly enjoyed it. My son is thinking of uni for his future already.”