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Chaucer Foundation helps build the confidence of young people with learning disabilities



Chaucer Foundation is a proud supporter of initiatives to help build the confidence of young people with learning disabilities.

The Foundation is working in partnership with Andy Barrow,

former GB Paralympic Wheelchair Rugby Captain, to host 12 workshops in London and Kent to motivate and inspire young people with learning disabilities.

The first London workshop was held at The Royal Docks Community School on 17 July for 24 students from the Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties Unit. Six Chaucer employees volunteered as mentors and helped run the physically challenging activities on the day. This session followed three successful earlier workshops held in Kent, in partnership with Voluntary Action within Kent. The Foundation was created by Lloyd's Insurer Chaucer to provide volunteering, fundraising and support to benefit the local communities close to Chaucer offices.

Andy Barrow commented: "I developed the workshops to challenge the students and volunteers by taking them out of their comfort zones and getting them to work in teams. The great thing about the sessions is that they are not in direct competition with the other teams, but trying to better their own performances and their own scores for each activity. The Chaucer volunteers have enjoyed getting to know the students and have also taken a lot from the workshop, including developing their own communication skills."

Commenting on the London event at The Royal Docks Community School, Ray Coe, SEN Coordinator said: “The students thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the challenges and working with the Chaucer volunteers. Our key focus is to help the students to achieve greater independence, as well as learning through mainstream education. This workshop has really helped the students build their confidence. Andy’s speech about the challenges he overcame to become such a successful athlete has also inspired all of the young people who participated.”

Enquiries

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Note to editors

About us

The Andy Barrow project is supported by the Chaucer Foundation, which was created in 2013 to provide volunteering, fundraising and support for charitable initiatives local to Chaucer offices. The aim of the Foundation is to help make a real difference in our communities and to inspire greater volunteer contribution in improving disadvantaged lives.

Organisations may apply for grants at any time. Applications for Foundation funding will be reviewed and approved quarterly by the Chaucer Foundation Board. For further information please contact enquiries@chaucer-foundation.org.uk