



YAZLETTER

MY INTERN UPDATE

Hi everyone. It's me, Yaz here and I'm so excited to be sharing with you all that I have been up to this term at YKids. From the thrilling, to the crazy, to complete and utter madness. Read on to find out more!



Groups I have been involved with



Ykids Juniors

Juniors has been a blast this term for kids and leaders alike. A typical session consists of upfront games, a special guest, craft activities and we can't forget the pies in the face! We usually have between 40-50 five to eight year olds full of energy and raring to go. One of the main lessons I have learnt this term is to not agree to dress up as a villain as a special guest, the kids will be desperate to pie you then! But on a more reflective note, God has provided me with some amazing opportunities to build relationships with children, it's been so exciting to be able to invest in their lives and to have a positive influence on them. I am so thankful to God for this and cannot wait to see their growth and the ways God uses me at Juniors next term.



Showstoppers



Showstoppers was a new group for this term for eight to eleven year olds. This group has been very creative giving children the opportunity to bring storytelling to life through drama. We usually have between 15-20 children attend, full of passion and many eye-opening ideas. I have had the opportunity to work alongside a small group whilst they are rehearsing their performance for the final show they done last week. God has provided me with some exciting opportunities to enable children to grow in their confidence through storytelling and to believe in their abilities. I am so thankful to God for this and cannot wait to see their continued growth in future YKids groups.

Boss Life



Boss Life was a new group this term for eleven to seventeen year olds. I should probably share with the southerners reading this that "Boss" basically means amazing! This group has enabled young people with the life skills in order to ace their life's in the future. Young people had the opportunity to cook on a budget, taste test different brands of food, test a new YKids board game called "That's Life" and we even went on a supermarket sweep at the end of the project! This group has really helped young people to understand life skills to help them to be independent and thriving young adults.



Pantry/Calm and Create



Pantry/Calm and Create has been a huge success this term. We have had many families come along each Wednesday morning to do their weekly shop for £3.50 and to try out some different craft activities too, as well as enjoying a cuppa along the way. And we cannot forget the iconic toast! We have had many parent volunteers step up to help on the team which has been incredible. Their generosity and love for others is beautiful to see. Praise God for the opportunities I've had to listen and chat to families to encourage, comfort and support them. I cannot wait to see how God uses me at Pantry/Calm and Create next term.

Monday Night Live



Monday Night Live is our monthly youth gospel event for eleven to seventeen year olds. The night is full of live challenges and a chance to spin the prize wheel, live worship, video content, including my Guinness World Record attempts, a gospel message and this is all presented by a Southern and Scouse Ant and Dec, aka Luke and Neil! My Guinness World Record Attempts have been going down a storm with the young people, I have failed to beat a record yet, but there's still time! Last month we had just under 50 amazing young people attend, quite a few of these were non-believers and we even had a salvation during prayer at the end of the evening which is very encouraging. I am so thankful to God for fresh salvation and the opportunity to share the gospel with young people, some for the very first time.



Equip – Faith based group



Equip has been very fruitful for our young people this term. Our sessions have been focused on getting young people into the habit of Bible reading to take the next steps in their relationship with God. We usually have between 5-10 eleven to seventeen year olds attend each week, excited for a time of fun and games with close friends and eager to grow in their relationship with God. I've had the opportunity to lead small groups during our devotion time which has filled my heart with so much joy getting to walk alongside young people in their faith journeys. I am so thankful to God for the opportunity to share Jesus with them and watch them grow spiritually.

Easter Assemblies



The other week Luke, Neil and I had the opportunity to go into a non-faith based secondary school local to Ykids, to share an Easter assembly to each year group throughout the week. We shared about Jesus being the Living Water and that Jesus is all these young people need to satisfy them. We played "Gargle It", the young people watched a video we created, and Luke shared a short gospel message. It was a great learning experience for me learning how to evangelise in a local school and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Kingsley & Co



I have had the opportunity to help out at our incredible bookshop and cafe Kingsley & Co this term. It's such a magical and breathtaking place, full of many quirky things for children and families to explore. This term Kingsley launched their new baby and toddler group called Story and Rhyme which has been very popular with families in the community. I've had the opportunity to lead story and song time as well as interacting with little ones and their families. When I'm not helping at Story and Rhyme, you'll find me organising the many genres of secondhand books we have for sale for only £1 or making one of our famous coffees. We also have regular visits from schools, recently during World Book Day I dressed up as Tick-Tock the crocodile from Peter Pan whilst helping Year 1's read and choose books to take home with them. Bet I've never seen a reading crocodile I hear you ask yourself! I have thoroughly enjoyed working at Kingsley and cannot wait to see how God uses me in the future here.

Hanging on for life



A real life story by Yaz

Luke and I went bouldering, this is basically rock climbing without the harnesses. For those of you who don't know, I fear heights and prior to going, Luke forgot to tell me that we wouldn't be wearing harnesses! In the end I just went for it and really enjoyed myself up until getting to the top of the last wall when I got stuck, I couldn't see a way down that felt safe, and my hands started slipping. I started to panic, thinking I was going to fall, but before this happened a random stranger who was trained in bouldering rescue helped me down. It was quite an experience, but after the event God reminded me that even when we feel like we are only holding onto God with our fingertips, even then He will carry us to safety, just like this man did for me.



I would value prayer for....



Continuation of groups in May for our summer term. I will have the opportunity to lead a brand new project or a current one. Prayers for Holy Spirit inspiration and for me to be equipped to make a difference to young people's lives.



I'm helping out at a Christian children's camp at the end of May called MCYC. Most of these kids will be brand new to me as it's a camp for children all around Liverpool. Prayers that I'm able to connect with the children and lead them closer to Jesus.



YKids are leading kids and youth work at Freedom Church's weekend away, (this is my church in Liverpool) and I'll be helping out with the kids work while spending time with my church family. Prayers that the team is equipped to connect with the kids and this can be an impactful time in their faith journeys.

Prayers for the young people that have become Christians and growing in their faith journeys that they will become bold in sharing Jesus with their families and friends and become stronger in their faith daily.



Ykids two week summer event this year is Pirates. Prayers for the ongoing planning for this, that God fills the team with wisdom and strength and that the event will be a blessing to many families in the community.



I always value prayers for my future and I trust God will open the right door for me to serve Him. I always speak over myself Jeremiah 29:11 as this is such a beautiful promise from our Lord.



Thanks so much for reading YazLetter. Until next time, bye!!

