

RA3: Raising Aspirations, Attitudes and Achievement

Chaucer Business & Enterprise College

We as a family of schools have been given the exciting opportunity to take part in the RA3 project. This will officially start in April 2009 and will run for one financial year. It will be funded and we will be using this opportunity to provide family learning activities across the family of schools.

What is the RA3 project?

- The project aims to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) attainment in South Yorkshire. The main way in which it hopes to achieve this is through family learning.
- Each lead secondary school works alongside their primaries in the activities, which have proven to be most successful with years 5-8.
- It is run by the Centre for Science Education, a research faculty at SHU, and funded by Yorkshire Forward.
- The project has 3 strands: GDOs (Grand Days Out), FLG (Family Learning Groups) and CPD (Continuing Professional Development).

Grand Days Out (GDOs)

- Either a trip to an attraction, such as a science museum or mine, with just our family of schools (mini GDOs).
- Or a large-scale activity organised by the University, such as building a model town, working alongside the other schools involved (10 in total).

Family Learning Groups (FLGs)

- An out of school group that meet to engage in family learning on a smaller scale than GDOs.
- The activities are hands on and include things like making robots, designing Lego models etc.

CPD (Continuing Professional Development)

- Sessions run for the benefit of teachers at the participating schools, helping them to implement new and exciting ways of teaching STEM subjects.
- As the project has developed, they are now offering CPD sessions for parents (at their request), teaching them the classroom approach to STEM subjects, so they feel able to help with homework etc.

How are we going to use RA3?

We imagine using the RA3 project as a great tool for transition and improving our family learning across the family of schools.

Transition

- We will use the RA3 project to do some transitional activities; these will be done in coordination with the Chaucer Transition staff.
- G & T summer school – we will have an RA3 activity day during the G & T Summer School.
- Transitional Summer School – There will be some kind of RA3 activity taking place during the Summer break.

Family Learning

- RA3 is perfect for family learning, this will be through the Grand Days out, Mini Grand days out and some of the after school clubs.

Study Support

- Activities to be held at Chaucer with teaching staff leading the sessions, parents will be actively encouraged to attend.
- Chaucer Secondary students will provide peer training and support during activities.

How will RA3 benefit your school?

- A way to fulfil the family learning requirement of the Extended Services Programme.
- A chance for staff from your school to learn new ways of teaching STEM subjects to make them engaging for students.
- Free trips to offer to students and their families
- Easing the transition from primary to secondary school by allowing primary students to interact with secondary staff and students and meet students from other primary schools.
- Raising attainment in STEM subjects at your school.