

Launch of the Junior Achievement Award



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award

The Launch of the Junior Achievement Award took place on Wednesday 10th September 2008 at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London and Thursday 18th September 2008 at Partnership for Learning in Liverpool. These one day conferences were held to launch the new award and highlight its benefits, explore progression links to the Youth Challenges and Youth Achievement Awards and provide a forum for those involved in the pilot stage to talk about their successes. These launch events were aimed at workers and managers from a range of settings who are involved in supporting children to develop personal and social skills, such as: primary schools, junior youth groups, play work settings, breakfast and homework clubs, residential centres, social services, sports clubs, performing arts groups, faith groups, holiday schemes etc.



Delegates listening to a Presentation by Yvonne Richards (UK Youth)

The launch events were attended by a total of 74 delegates and 9 staff. At both launch events, we had presentations from groups who were involved in the JAA pilot such as:

- Debra Shaw and Gemma Scrivern from Children's Society
- Simone Sharpe with Tajsharn Cummings, Jaimee Dover, and Sylvia Nwoko from Kaizen Primary School
- Shara Brice from Ascension Eagles
- Sarah Taylor and Rebecca Kelly from Youth Federation
- Lorraine Miller from Safe in Tees Valley.

There were table discussions and Julie Smith co-ordinated a sample Junior Achievement Award Challenge session with delegates where they were asked to set themselves a challenge and to collect evidence to support their challenge.



Delegates completing the sample challenges exercise

Table discussions at launch in Liverpool



Delegates were asked what were their highs and lows of the day. Their comments are below.

Highs:

- “Meeting others who are using the Junior Achievement Award and the passion they also have for the Awards.”
- “High attendance from a diverse range of positive people.”

- “Great to exchange ideas with other delegates.”
- “Networking.”
- “Best event I have been for ages!”
- “Presentations from groups who took part in the pilot.”
- “Seeing examples of completed Junior Achievement Awards.”
- “Listening to projects/schools who took part in the pilot, very valuable to learn from what’s already been done.”
- “Asking questions and getting interesting and helpful answers”
- “Welcoming atmosphere”
- “Discovering that JAA does fit in with my area of work quite nicely.”
- “Well organized. Helpful staff.”

Lows

- “Wondering how JAA would work with all groups especially those with a small attention span.”
- “Break too long”
- “Arriving late”
- “Getting lost on the way here.”
- “Not networking enough, I stayed on one table.”
- “Distance to travel meant early departure.”

Delegates were asked how the launch event has influenced their decision in using the Junior Achievement Awards. Their comments are below:

- “Inspired through speaking to other delegates and hearing the speakers.”
- “The books on display were laid out well, easy to follow, each challenge rewarded until they complete the Award.”
- “Definitely would like to start the Awards and access the training.”
- “Very interested now in the delivery of JAA with young carer groups and Extended Schools Service.”
- “Seeing evidence of how the JAA works for the children. Also identify how I can introduce it.”
- “Very interested- good accreditation model for age group.”
- “Reinforced my enthusiasm and commitment to JAA”
- “I would like to use it for our Summer Scheme but wouldn’t want it to affect the activities and ‘natural’ play.”
- “Come away with an idea of how the scheme could be used.”