

Coventry University Sustainability Champion Keith Holmes

Over the last six years Keith Holmes has been Environmental Champion within Coventry University's School of Art and Design and has dedicated hundreds of hours to undertake a wide range of projects and activities to help highlight environmental and sustainable issues amongst staff and students within the school.

Keith was selected to support a group of students on a 10 day programme in Jordan: The Majid AlSadi Changing Lives Programme.

Section 1 About the project

Summary

The programme involves enterprising students working to rejuvenate the physical, educational and cultural experience for Jordanian children in some of the country's most deprived schools.

Project partners

Coventry University, Eastern Holding

Section 2 The results

The problem

The chosen school was in a very poor condition and children had not interacted with English speaking people from the Western world before.

The approach


University students were organised into teams of 2/3 people to undertake teaching duties and 2 larger groups to undertake beautification purposes including painting the school exterior and internal cleaning duties.

Our goals

- To improve the lives of the disadvantaged children at the chosen school in Jordan by the students teaching and interacting with the children.
- Through physical work undertaken to improve the school and to provide a unique educational and cultural experience to Coventry University students through their efforts.

Obstacles and solutions

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| Language | Use of interpreters where possible, basic English, images etc to get message across |
| Cultural | Adaptation, patience, understanding of children's cultural values |
| Teaching materials | Lack of teaching tools meant a lot of improvisation in teaching methods |



Profile

- HEI
- 25,000 students (includes full and part time students)
- 2,500 staff
- Urban

Category supported by



POWERING THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Finalist's case study

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| Time | Limited time meant tasks had to be prioritised and deadlines adhered to |
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Performance and results

The University students gained hugely from this cultural experience while the children were hugely appreciative of the student's efforts to interact, form bonds and improve the look of the School through their hard work and efforts.

Section 3 The future

Sharing our project

The Project has been shared through social media (a justgiving page to raise funds for the school) and a gallery event taking place at the Coventry School of Art and Design which is open to members of the public where students discuss their experience on the program alongside images taken throughout the trip.

The programme was also subject to media scrutinisation whilst in Jordan via the Jordanian times and Jordanian TV.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

Coventry University as modern University of the year for two years running takes environmental and sustainability issues incredibly seriously. The University prides itself on its previous Green Gown accolades and is extremely proud it continues to be recognised for its sustainability initiatives.

Further information

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Details of the Majid AISadi Changing Lives Programme can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/MajidAISadiChangingLivesProgram>

Article from the Jordanian Times:
<http://jordantimes.com/uk-students-help-150-jordanian-schoolchildren-improve-their-english>