

... picture this ...

...what do we need to succeed?

...be part of the change...

...get involved...



Spring 2009

What's Happening?

December
2008

Business Case Meeting
 All Thornbridge Teams and LAS
 senior management

January
2009

Staff Development
 Instructors Personal
 Development Days

February
2009

Website Go-live
 New improved and
 helpful....

March
2009

"Climbing for Success"
 I.T. room fully functional

April
2009

Easter activities
 Targetted support for
 KS2 groups

If shared, every idea counts.

Change at Thornbridge Outdoors is well underway:

Key reasons for the change are:

- To improve access for all children and young people of Sheffield: a combination of face to face direct experience at Thornbridge and beyond, supported by ICT-enabled experiences.
- To provide an approach to learning that will contribute to addressing the Attainment Challenge in Sheffield through constructive engagement in positive activities at Thornbridge.
- To develop the centre as a "Sustainability Showcase" - creating a dynamic learning centre which will provide enhanced residential and day-visit experiences.

We will have greater capacity to help Sheffield children and young people achieve...



Together, we can make
 amazing things happen.





Share with us in celebrating a year of success & change

A quick indication of what has been going on at Thornbridge Outdoors this year. If you visit our new website in 2009, you'll get more idea of what we are achieving...

Outdoor Education, supported by:

Courses and Outdoor Leadership, **Events & Planning** and the **Management Centre**

1. Outdoor Education

- 70 primary schools
- 12 secondary schools
- 4 special schools
- 15 INSET days
- LA departmental visits
- LAS whole service day
- Capacity Planning & Development team day
- Green Action residential

2. Courses & Outdoor Leadership

- Mountain Leader courses
- Mountain Biking Leader courses
- Walking Group Leader courses
- Single Pitch Climbing courses
- Cave leader course
- Educational Visit Coordinator courses
- Numerous 1st aid course
- Heartstart – 2 day first aid courses for children
- NQT & PGCE training days

3. Events & Planning

- Regional cyclo-cross races
- Charity run for FSI
- Wedding receptions
- Birthday parties
- Family gatherings
- British Ski Club
- British Cycling Olympic MTB training
- Junior British Climbing Team
- Children's cycling coaching events

4. Management Centre

- 3 Capital One challenges linked to strategic business change
- Barnardos team day
- Siemens VAI 2 Day Corporate Challenge
- HSBC meetings on developing global talent pool
- Support for B & Q management training



"Where young people experience memorable events in their education, they don't just remember the emotion and excitement of the event itself but the learning that went with it," Ofsted, "Learning Outside the Classroom" October 2008

2008 Celebrating Success & Change...

Visiting Thornbridge Outdoors? What's new?

- **Drinks** service for leaders now available on Fridays after you have vacated the residential units.
- **Recycling** – thank you to groups who use the recycling bins. It costs us to provide this service, but hopefully contributes to a bigger (global) saving...
- By the start of the camping season, there will be a new **covered sink area** outside the camp block.
- We will be providing **"I've forgotten my washing –up stuff"** – packs, available for a small fee.
- We are bringing in some new **Eco-friendly** products to be available in the shop
- There is a large **new classroom** – or is it "a learning space"...? Thanks to Study Support, within the Extended Learning Team, we now have a Yurt..... This is a potentially great space for teaching and learning.....
- We have recycled some trees to produce the some large wooden carvings thanks to a local **chainsaw artist**
- By Spring, there will be a way-marked **"woodland walk"** to encourage visitors to explore the grounds...
- To help you extract and **capture the learning** from activities, we will be providing some new Reviewing Resources in 2009
- As we keep giving away our **Problem Solving** ideas, you will find some new ones when you visit in 2009.
- We are doing some exciting joint projects with **Sheffield Arts Education**.... combining creative ideas with the environment, practical art work, digital recording, story-writing & IT...!
- And why not bring your **music** to the environment...?
- To help **inspire good performance**, we have been offered some signed shirts from the medal-winning Olympic cycling team... how many days to 2012...?!

Ed Balls on "Learning Outside the Classroom": "...it is not some optional extra. It should excite young people, deepen their understanding of classroom subjects, and they are vital to make young people independent, confident and self-reliant.

- Outdoor Education
- Courses & Outdoor Leadership
- Events & Planning
- Management Centre



Thornbridge Outdoors

This year we have had more Sheffield groups doing more... School programmes have been extended and enriched, and with your help and input, we know we can continue this trend...

- Targetted transition courses working with Y6/Y7 and with Y12 groups.
- Playing for Success "Satellite" activities, both day and residential
- Positive Activities for Young People and Camp Sheffield events
- Intensive Languages days
- Multi-activity sessions for the Hearing Impaired Service

Think broadly and ask what we can provide... we are here to help you achieve your aims...

We have benefitted from being a part of the Extended Learning Team – working together with colleagues in the Learning and Achievement Service to deliver courses and residentials that add real value.

The Government's "Learning Outside the Classroom" manifesto has helped to draw attention to the core contribution that quality outdoor learning can contribute.

Our future business model is based on the best deal for Sheffield young people. Revenue from work with non-Sheffield groups is used to subsidise the charges made to Sheffield schools. The recent Siemens Challenge for example, took place offsite, and will fund some of the new website development.

We have just had a successful Adventure Activity Licencing inspection and will have the licence extended for another two years.



Adge Last: Outdoor Education Strategy Adviser

The staff at Thornbridge have had a busy year, but that's what we are here for. As well as supporting the continuous growth in number of opportunities for Sheffield young people, we have been contributing towards the changes necessary to make Thornbridge Outdoors sustainable in the future.

We recognize how much hard work the visiting staff put into every visit to Thornbridge, and hope you feel like we have provided the support you deserve. We look forward to seeing you again next year – and please feel free to contact us with ideas and to discuss possibilities as soon as they occur!

Finally, Dot Wales left us this year after 28 years of service. She would like to pass on her thanks to every one of you she worked with.. and we would also like to thank her for helping Sheffield children and Thornbridge over so many years.

... for Sheffield children ...
::
... Thornbridge Outdoors



2009 Opportunities for Celebrating Success & Change...

Why not have your meeting at Thornbridge Outdoors?

- Good Food
- Good ICT
- Low Cost compared to a Conference room

Less than 30 minutes from the edge of Sheffield

In 2009, why not consider Thornbridge for...

Outdoor Education:

- Transition Residentials: Y2/Y3, Y6/Y7, Y11/Y12
- D of E Support
- Intensive language study
- SAT's boosters
- Study Residential for Y11/12
- Support for GCSE sport – climbing, orienteering, biking
- Making the most of "Learning Outside the Classroom"

Courses and Outdoor Leadership:

- First aid
- Offsite visit leader training
- New outdoor skills courses
- Bespoke courses designed for you

Events and Planning:

- Staff training
- Team building "Away days"
- Your own agenda
- SCC – other Directorates, not just CYPD

Management Centre:

- Inter-department challenge event
- Incentive days
- Performance improvement