Theatre in Schools and Peacejam

Clare Hall - English

About your volunteering role

- I have been involved in a range of exciting volunteering roles throughout my time at university. One of these has been a leading involvement in ‘Theatre in Schools’, a project run by YUSU. As volunteers, we have gone into local primary schools around York to run interactive and engaging drama workshops after school. These sessions have involved a diverse range of activities and themes from improvisation, Shakespeare and stories covering different genres. It has been amazing to see how much the children have gotten stuck in and enjoyed the different activities, and parents have been really impressed as well! I have also been involved in the recent Peacejam Slam event, where I delivered a ‘Theatre in Schools’ workshop and helped to host the event, introducing guests and singing songs for young students.

What attracted you to take part in volunteering?

- Taking part in volunteering has been a great way to get involved with the local community and build up my confidence. For ‘Theatres in Schools’ in particular, I have always loved drama so to be able to share my passion with young children has been incredibly inspiring. Volunteering has been really helpful for my future career development as well. I have always been interested in working with children, and volunteering has reaffirmed my choice to undertake a PCGE teaching course after I graduate.

What have been the highlights/surprises of your volunteering experiences?

- A definite highlight of my time volunteering has been seeing the positive responses of young people and how they have loved getting involved. Especially for ‘Theatres in Schools’, it has been great to see how engaged young students are, and the bizarre ideas they have come up with! It is really rewarding to see parents reactions to what the children have been getting up to as well. As for surprises, I have been really taken aback by just how many opportunities there are to volunteer through the University. Taking part in ‘Theatres in Schools’, Peacejam and the Careers Department @WORK volunteering project, I’ve had such a diverse and exciting volunteering experience.

Top tips for people thinking of volunteering?

- Choose something you are passionate about. This will mean you will enjoy the volunteering experience all the more and even find inspiration for your future career. Also, just get involved and stuck in to whatever you’re doing, and you will see the fantastic impact you can make towards the local community.

If you are interested in getting involved in a volunteering role like this, or have something else in mind, please get in touch with us at volunteering@york.ac.uk and we will be happy to help you.