



THE Leigh Centurions Learning Zone



Leigh Centurions Playing for Success Centre

Leigh Centurions RLFC and the young community of Leigh, Greater Manchester have seen the dawn of a new era. A nationally recognised state-of-the-art Playing for Success Centre has been built at the home of Leigh Centurions for young adults and children to use in order to increase educational attainment through the medium of the local professional Rugby League club.

Leigh Centurions RLFC are a National League One side who have built links with the local community over a number of years. Players from our squad are proud to act as positive role models for young people in the town and surrounding areas. Off the pitch the community department has expanded beyond all dreams, teaching over 7000 primary school children the non contact form of rugby. In addition, over 3000 high school young adults have experienced the game of Rugby League, over 500 special school children have developed skills increasing sensory perception and co-ordination, 1800 socially excluded young adults have participated in programmes to help self control and self awareness and over 2000 primary school children have participated in educational programmes in Numeracy and Literacy run by the club over the past 3 years.

What is Playing for Success?

Playing for Success is a government-funded educational initiative that establishes out of hours study support centres within professional sports clubs to help motivate pupils through the medium of sport and to help raise their achievements in literacy, numeracy and ICT. A partnership between Leigh Centurions and the Wigan Education Business Partnership has brought the successful *Playing for Success* initiative to the town, and with it the opportunity for year 5 and year 8 pupils to improve their key skills in a state of the art , vibrant learning centre. Pupils participate in a unique programme which aims to help each child reach their potential through a range of stimulating, fun activities which centre around the game of Rugby League and their own local club.

Leigh Centurions are delighted to be able to offer further quality learning experiences to the local community via our own programme, known as *The Leigh Learning Zone*.

A pilot scheme ran during the Spring Term 2007 and during the Summer Term the centre opened its doors for 2-hour sessions with both Y5 and Y8 children (on separate sessions) 4 nights a week, therefore catering for 4 primary schools and 4 secondary schools per 10 week cohort. Each participant takes part in a programme focused around not only the sport today, but also how the sport and the club have changed over the last sixty years at Hilton Park, while looking forward to the dawn of a new era in the Leigh Sports Village .



Leigh Centurions Playing for Success Overview

The Haka

Explore teamwork strengths through traditional war songs. Pupils devise and perform their own Haka after seeing one performed and researching its origins using ICT.

Player Time

Pupils interview players from different eras to find out about changes in the game and players' lifestyles.

Then and Now

Building on evidence collected from Player Time and further research via an interactive team game (Pictureboard Challenge), pupils prepare, perform and film role plays comparing the past and modern eras.

Marketing Mayhem

Pupils explore ways to publicise the game of Rugby League in the wider community, looking at different advertising methods. They then produce a poster which publicises an up and coming match.

Matchday Madness

Pupils find out about the preparation and work which takes place on a match day. They look at job roles and the skills involved in those roles and undertake literacy and numeracy tasks related to some of the job roles.

Loads a Money

Retail and merchandising: pupils look at the concept of profit, and design their own t-shirt with a view to trading at a profit. They are given 'money' to spend on design and compete to produce the most attractive merchandise for the lowest outlay.

Fit to Play

Fitness and Diet: pupils do simple fitness tests (bleep test, reps per minute, heart rate) and compare their results to those of players from the 1st team. They look at nutrition and devise a healthy lunch for themselves and a rugby player.

Prepare to Win

Pupils prepare for a match as the team would and experience the pre-match team talk. They use photo editing software to create still photographs of themselves in the role of a rugby player.

End of Season Review

Pupils review their season by producing a powerpoint presentation to show their achievements during the programme, which they then present to the group. A fun interactive quiz reveals what they have learned about rugby league and they use their weekly evaluations to produce a smile-o-graph to show which activities they were happiest with.



The Playing for Success Scheme at Leigh Centurions

The pilot scheme ran during the Spring Term 2007, and involved 4 local schools.

The scheme proper, for 4 schools in KS2 and 4 schools in KS3 has been running from the beginning of the Summer Term 2007 and will continue hereafter.

Each school involved has a designated session. For primary schools, the session runs from 3.15pm-5.15pm on the same day each week, for 10 weeks during term time only. For secondary schools, the sessions run in the later time slot of 5.15pm-7.15pm.

Pupils are collected from school by minibus at 3.00pm and 5.00pm respectively, and KS2 children are returned to their own homes at the end of the session. Pupils in KS3 are either dropped off at school or are collected from the centre.

The new study centre at Hilton Park Stadium provides places for 12 pupils per school. This capacity will increase to 15 pupils per school when we relocate to the new stadium.

Places are available to children in years 5 and 8, with the idea of helping improve attainment in the year prior to the end of Key Stage tests.

The centre is managed by an experienced teacher, who is supported by three assistants. Additional support, on a voluntary basis, is provided by members of the first team squad, and by peer mentors for KS3 – these are year 11 high school pupils who have participated in the club's Aim Higher programme for KS4.

Contact Details:

The Learning Zone,
Leigh Centurions RLFC,
The Coliseum Stadium,
Kirkhall Lane,
Leigh,
WN7 1RN

Tel: 01942 703757

Fax: 01942 768856



Centre Manager: Linda Donohue