

Bridging the Gap News

Bridging the Gap launched in Drew Primary School

16 February 2007

Bridging the Gap took to the road last week delivering an exciting action packed 2-day project with Year 5 pupils at Drew Primary School in Newham.

The pupil's first task was to explain about their local area to a group of aliens who had just landed in 2012. They were then taken back in time and shown a short clip from 'Neighbourhood 15' a film about the post war industrial Royal Docks through the eyes of a small boy who used to go to Drew Primary. Over the 2 days children produced a giant 3 dimensional map of the Olympic site using a range of mapping and modelling techniques. The project also included a visit to Thames Barrier Park which encouraged the pupils to think about how a green space near major transport routes can be designed differently.

"I thought it was really fun because of all the things that you learn. I didn't ever know that the Olympics was going to be in Newham. I knew it was in London. Before I thought Newham was a really rubbish place, but now I think it's really cool" said one of the Year 5 pupils at Drew

Bridging the Gap is the first Olympics architecture and built environment education programme which has received funding from the London Borough of Newham. The programme aims to help children and young people understand the scale of change brought about by hosting this major sporting event and to promote ownership of the developments. Bridging the Gap will work with nine schools in Newham during the pilot phase including Britannia Village and Royal Docks Community school this term. Further information can be found on www.fundamental.uk.net/bridgingthegap where teachers are invited to join the online Programme Network and access downloadable curriculum resources.

"I think it has been really good to have the hands on practical experience of the Olympics and what it's going to mean for them in the future" said Estelle, a Year 5 teacher at Drew

Bridging the Gap was devised and is delivered by Fundamental Architectural Inclusion, a specialist architecture and built environment education organisation based in Newham that seeks ways for communities to genuinely participate in the planning and development process of regeneration in their neighbourhoods.

"We believe that schools and teachers are the key to children and young people understanding local regeneration issues. With the promise of the Olympics as a catalyst to the wider regeneration of east London, Bridging the Gap will be an important first step towards regeneration awareness in schools" said Nick Edwards, Co-Director Fundamental Architectural Inclusion.

Fundamental Architectural Inclusion is a member of the Architecture Centre Network (ACN), a national network of centres across the UK dedicated to exploring and interpreting the built environment and is uniquely well-placed to deliver engagement opportunities in partnership with the key agencies involved in the Olympic developments.

Fundamental
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