

A Fantastic Year...

Over the past year, the Open Centre has been working hard to **improve the services** it provides to its visitors. This has resulted in; an increase in bookings, new staff members, new resources, new premises and most importantly the ability to work with a range of new schools and organisations. **From September 2015 to July 2016** the Open Centre noted a **new record** for visitors to the centre with an **extra 2237 visitors**, compared to the previous year. Through the increase in visitors, the Open Centre has been able to promote diversity and community cohesion within the local area, along with helping schools to make donations to the local community via the Open Centre. Last year the **Open Centre**



**#Giving
Back**

was able to **donate an extra £2420** to the local community and support local projects. We have already had a wealth of bookings for this next year so we are anticipating an even **greater number** of visitors.

If you would like to find out how your school can work with the Open Centre, please don't hesitate to contact us so we can arrange a uniquely tailored experience for your students.

A Sense of Community...

On the 1st of September, the Open Centre hosted a community event in which staff, trustees and members from the local community, that we work with, came together to build relationships with each other and to find out more about the Open Centre. It was a **great success** and was a wonderful opportunity for the different faiths in Derby to get to know one another better. We also had a quiz, which proved to be great fun! #communitycohesion.



How Creative Are You?

This Autumn term, why not show your more **creative side** with one of our cultural workshops? Here are just a few comments from schools who have recently taken part in one of our faith workshops;

"Lovely hosts, very knowledgeable. Every year I learn something new!"
(Dronfield Junior School)



"Thank you for an inspirational day. We loved the delicious food, the henna tattoos and the dressing up"
(Chadsmead Primary School)

Why not have a look at our website to see how you can get your creative juices flowing?
<http://www.derbyopencentre.org/workshops>

Even we are still learning...

When all our friends in education were winding down for the summer, staff at the Open Centre were still working hard at the end of term, with some staff training on workshops. Even though our average feedback rating for workshops is **9 out of 10**, we are still striving to provide the best educational and experience for those who participate in one of our many faith workshops. Staff looked at how all our workshops can be linked to the new Agreed Syllabuses, resources and how to create a **unique atmosphere** as part of every workshop; using light, sound and smell—**immersing participants in the experience**. The day was a great success and as a result, from September onwards new materials will be used as part of sessions with extra information soon to be provided for teachers/organisers via our website so the learning can continue further.



Why not book a workshop and discover the delights of a different culture for yourself?

See our website for details— <http://www.derbyopencentre.org/workshops>

Recent Feedback

Here are what a few schools, who have **recently** visited us, said about their experience.



St Mary's C of E First School – Uttoxeter *"The children were amazed by everything they saw! Everything was really well thought out and explained."*



St Augustine's First School – Ashbourne *"Yet again we had an enjoyable and informative trip around the places of worship. We were made so welcome and all questions were answered. Thank you."*



Springwell College – Staveley *"Excellent hosts! Activities were very informative and interactive."*

Mary Swanwick Primary – Chesterfield *"Thank you for welcoming us on this enjoyable and educational visit. The adults and children learned so much on the visit and were particularly impressed by how welcoming and friendly people in the local community were. We will be back!"*

Dates for your Diary

Here are a few **upcoming** Religious Events, Festivals and Awareness days this term you might be interested in:

September

- September—Christianity—Harvest
- 12th September—Islam—Eid ul Adha

October

- All month—Black History Month
- 3rd October—Judaism—Rosh Hashanah (New Year)
- 30th October—Hinduism—Divali

November

- 14th November—Sikhism—Guru Nanak's birthday

December

- 12th December—Islam—Prophet Muhammad's birthday
- 24th December—Christianity—Christmas
- 24th December—Judaism—Hanukkah

