



BoA Youth Report - May 2026

Summary

In April, the youth club sessions times were changed, with the Monday session removed but earlier starts on Tuesdays and Thursdays allowing for 4 regular sessions – one for juniors (age 8+); one for pre-teens (age 10-13) and two for teens (age 11+).

Staffing

A BOA Youth Deputy Coordinator was recruited in February, however after 2 months in the post, they have decided the position was not for them.

The Tuesday session has a number of regular volunteers to enable the sessions to continue to run and George Tomlinson will cover Thursday sessions where possible while we recruit a new Deputy Coordinator.

Tuesday Juniors

The Tuesday junior session now runs from 3.30pm to 5pm and is aimed at 8+ year olds (years 3 to 7).

The session continues to offer a mix of sport, gaming, arts and crafts and, if numbers allow, cooking as well as general free play and we have introduced a no mobile phone policy to this session.

Due to the change of time and a slightly shorter session, we now just offer snacks and encourage independence with the young people making themselves toast or sandwiches. We continue to receive a donation of surplus groceries from Sainsbury's each week and supplement this using donations received from attendees.

We have a number of regular independent adult volunteers as well as some parent volunteers.

Donations for these sessions have reduced and now usually average at around 20p per head. Some parents also donate food instead of cash.

Community and Wellbeing committee meeting 19 May 2026

Agenda item 12 – BoA Youth Update

Written by Amanda Wiffen and George Tomlinson



Numbers range from 15-25 young people attending each week. The boy / girl ratio continues to sit at around 50/50.

Tuesday and Thursday Teen Club

The Tuesday and Thursday teen sessions run from 5.30pm to 8pm for young people aged 11+ (school years 7 to 11).

BOA Youth now have full access to the centre at these times enabling a social space, use of the pool table and table football as well as use of the sports hall.

We also provide a free hot meal, snacks and drinks.

Numbers continue to be steady with attendance ranging from 15 to 25 young people every session. The majority of attendees continue to be boys, however, we are starting to see more girls drop in.

The recently introduced Behaviour Agreement is being adhered to more so now, the sharing of the space with other users has impacted this in a positive way. U3A have been supportive and understanding.

Thursday Pre-Teens

This is a new session aimed at children aged 10 to 13 (years 6 to 8).

It was apparent that some children were feeling like they were growing out of the junior session however didn't feel quite confident to attend the teen sessions.

The session is more like the teen session – a social space, with opportunities for other activities. And free snacks and drinks are provided.

Numbers are currently low, but we expect them to increase as word spreads and as some of the older children currently attending the junior session feel they are ready to move on to something a bit different.

Christ Church Thursday after school drop-in

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Thursday 3pm-4pm during term time a BOA Youth team member assists at the Christ Church drop-in session which allows the service to continue as it maintains their staff ratio for their risk assessment needs.

Summer Holiday Club

The summer holiday activity timetable is being finalised and will be launched at the beginning of June.

Activities will run on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings throughout August and will include sports, dance, pottery, drama and circus skills. We are also teaming up with the Crafty Hive who will be offering a series of small group sessions at their premises on Silver Street.

It is hoped that the new tennis coach will also deliver a number of sessions as part of this offer.

We were granted an Area Board grant will enable us to again offer up to 50% of spaces as fully funded to children eligible for free school meals as well as keeping the general ticket prices low.

See Impact summary below.

