



Code Club in Libraries

Monday 25th September 2017

Case Study

During discussion at a STEM Partnership Meeting it was highlighted that the Scottish Library and Information Council had started to implement the running of Code Clubs through their local Libraries.

Upon investigating this, contact was made with Christine Cannon, Learning Support Officer based in Wigtown Customer Services (Library). Four members of staff from the Dumfries and Galloway Library Services team were trained in using Scratch and Python and the roll out of the project was in its early stages.

The RAiSE Team have now entered into discussion with Christine as to how we can work together to further develop this provision with the possibility of utilising Christine's knowledge to develop Code Clubs at School level..

Rationale

SLIC Code Clubs

In early 2017 The Scottish Library and Information Council coordinated a programme of training for public library staff to deliver coding sessions to young people ages between nine and 11.

Coding skills are now a core component of computing science and increasingly being sought after. Many of today's jobs require some degree of coding and demand for these skills will only increase as technology becomes more entrenched in society.

The Code Club Project aims to expose young people to coding skills in a way that is fun and engaging. By having a games-based focus and collaborative feel, the clubs enable children to develop confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills.

Code Clubs in Public Libraries/Customer Services Cyber Centres

Code Clubs take the form of weekly one-hour sessions, held either after school or at weekends during term time, for a number of

Is it for me?

This case study will be of interest to teachers and willing parent or community volunteers with an interest in coding, who are willing to facilitate the running of a code club

What does it cost?

As part of the SLIC Code Club Project advice and hosting of clubs within local Cyber Centres, with the Customer Service locations, is free. Time and remit allowing Christine Cannon (Wigtown and Kirkcudbright) is willing to offer training and assist with the setting up and running of Code Clubs at School level.

Where can I find out more?

- <http://scottishlibraries.org/projects/code-clubs/>
- <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17482&p=0>
- A member of the RAiSE Team will be more than willing to discuss any queries you may have and assist in any way with the setting up of a Code Club.

weeks. The ultimate aim is to make Code Clubs a standard part of the public library offer in Scotland.

This links directly with the strategic aims of *Ambition & Opportunity*, Scotland's strategy for public libraries, which highlights the role of libraries in delivering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities to support digital inclusion and economic wellbeing.

Benefits

The potential benefits of making this connection and link with Christine and the Library Services team is great. As Christine has already run a club she is aware of additional factors that should be taken in to consideration as well as being confident in hosting the clubs.

The Library Services vision and identification of the importance of all children between the ages of 9-11 being given the opportunity to experience coding through a fun and engaging environment is one which should definitely be built upon and extended to younger children.

In terms of benefits for learners the setting up of a Code Club will offer high quality interactions and planned activities, where children can explore and develop computing science in a controlled, but relaxed and enjoyable environment. The possibility of involving parents/carers as volunteers would further increase community links and parental engagement with the school.

