



Cricket Green Special School - Merton

‘I think the programme has been outstanding, the benefits for the kids have been huge, physically, emotionally, and socially’.
Michael Guppy

Cricket Green Special School are in their third year on the programme and the students have progressed enormously during this time. Michael Guppy who teaches at the school and has been closely involved with the group talked to us about their experience so far. He started by telling us about their first performance at the Merton Borough Event. This was a big occasion for them as none of the students had ever performed in front of a large audience before.

‘The first live event was amazing, the kids in the other schools were really fantastic, cheering and clapping for our students. Everyone saw that we were enjoying it and enjoyed it too! The run up to the event was also great, we had a performance in the school for family and friends’.

The school went on later in the year to perform at Step LIVE! our big celebratory event held at the Mermaid Conference and Events Centre. The students got an incredible reception from the crowd, and were without doubt one of the highlights of the show. Michael talked about the event as one of their best experiences on the programme so far.

‘The students absolutely loved Step LIVE! they were crazy for it! They still talk about it now and watch the DVD over and over again. It’s fantastic for them to be able to watch the performance back and realise their achievement.

Step LIVE! was also fantastic for the parents and a lot of them were surprised by what their kids were actually capable of, and achieved. There is so much focus on what can’t be done and this was a really fantastic example of what can be done’.

Michael talked in particular about the huge achievement and progress of one student, who suffers from considerable special needs and performed as part of the group at Step LIVE!

'If you'd said to us 3 years ago that she could learn a dance routine and stand up in front of 500 people and perform it, we would have said it wasn't possible. This massive achievement for her justifies the programme'.



Cricket Green students perform at Step LIVE!

Michael also talked about the benefits of the programme generally and how the classes have impacted on the students.

'There have been huge physical benefits for the students; fitness and coordination have improved as well as their confidence. These are really important skills'.

Michael credits Lauren Matthews, their Step into Dance teacher with the progress that the students have made.

'Lauren is excellent with the kids. She has been outstanding. She's so motivated and therefore the kids are also'.

Step into Dance is a partnership project between The Jack Petchey Foundation and the Royal Academy of Dance.

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