

#TEENSCENE



YOUTH HACKED IT

Tameside stepped further into the digital age last week as it held the first ever 'youth hack' in the borough.

As part of the Council's '#EveryChildACoder' pledge, 13-18-year-olds from across the borough were invited to take part in challenges set by local businesses and a couple of 12-year-olds even joined in, such was their eagerness!

The two-day event was held at the digital business hub at Ashton Old Baths and proved so successful that it's hoped there will be many more in the future.

At the end of two days of intense coding, the four teams; The Now Loading Team, Team Exception Overflow, Team Smarter Futures and Team ICTOAN, held presentations to demonstrate what they had made.

Cllr Lynn Travis, Tameside Council's executive member for lifelong learning and every child a coder champion, congratulated

the teams, saying: "I've been impressed, informed and inspired by what I've seen. It really has been excellent."

"I was delighted to see such a great turn-out. Hopefully next time some girls will take part because I know they can code just as well as boys and I'm interested to see the ideas they would come up with." The three businesses who set challenge for the keen coders were Banter Media, Purple and Hack Manchester.

Banter's challenge was to make a game with communication at its heart, which was won by TEAM ICTOAN, who built a two player puzzle-based games where the players have to help each other answer questions to progress.

George Konstantakopoulos, Director of Digital Innovation at Banter, said: "Banter was created



£50 worth of Amazon vouchers for their effort; a 'Smart Room' home sensor, using motion, light and heat sensors.

Kyle Davies is working at Purple on a 'knowledge transfer' from the University of Manchester and said he was amazed at the skill level of the young coders.

"I've been really impressed. I didn't believe they would be able to achieve in such a short space of time," he said.

Team Exception Overflow won the Hack Manchester challenge while the Now Loading Team were awarded the Best Teamwork prize.

Oliver Gaskell, 12, from Stalybridge, first got into coding at primary school and has been hooked ever since.

He said he's hoping there will be more Tameside Youth Hacks in the future.

"I really like coding and I do a lot at home," he said.

"I've never really done anything

from a communication aspect, hence the name. We love what we do and we love having fun doing it so that's why we came up with the game and communication challenge.

"In relation to what the teams have developed, I think we saw some brilliant ideas. The guys that came in amazed me. I wouldn't even have been thinking of these things at their age."

For Purple's challenge, they provided the teams with a set of sensors, single board computers and output devices and asked them to make something happen. Team Smarter Futures won

like this before so I thought it would be good to come and give it a try and I've really enjoyed it. If this event was put on again I'd definitely come back."

If the event organisers get their way, Oliver won't have to wait too long before he's back coding at Ashton Old Baths.

"The hack has gone fantastically; we're absolutely delighted in the success and the talent that we've seen," said Emma Hussain, Project Manager in Employment and Skills Team at Tameside Council.

"We would absolutely love to get behind another Youth Hack in Tameside.

"We have some local businesses that are really keen to get involved in another hack so we would absolutely love to do one in the future."

You can keep checking Twitter, @TamesideHack, for details on when the next Youth Hack will be.

The inaugural Tameside Youth Hack was sponsored by Tameside Council, O2 Ashton, Active Tameside, Bradley's Bakery, Tameside and Glossop Care Together, the Tameside Reporter and Glossop Chronicle, GM Hack Fest and Hive Manchester.

Cineworld team raise £1,500 for CiN

Staff from Cineworld Ashton helped to raise money for charity by taking part in the UK's first inflatable obstacle course, combined with a 5k run!

They joined forces with staff from Cineworlds across the 'Region 4' area to travel to Liverpool to take part in the 'Gung Ho!' course, all for their national charity partner, Children in Need.

Twenty-seven participants took part in all, dressed to impress in their Pudsey t-shirts.

Kevin Shaw, Deputy General Manager at Ashton said: "When we found out about 'Gung Ho!' We thought, 'What could be more 'Gung Ho!' than region four?'"

"We went about putting an elite team to battle against inflatables and make as much money as possible for such a fantastic charity."

Talking about the day

itself, Kevin added:

"Some of us had to get up really early to make it to Liverpool for the 12pm start time but everyone was really happy to show that they had what it took to be 'Gung Ho!'"

"After a warm-up with 'Gung Ho!' George we were off and embarking on what was to be an incredibly enjoyable afternoon."

It also turned out to be an incredibly fruitful afternoon for the Cineworld staff as they all successfully completed the course, raising over £1500 in the process.

Shona Mills, a staff member

at Ashton said: "This was my first 5K but I really enjoyed it. It was great to be able to support such an amazing charity."

Kevin said: "I would like to thank the co-ordinators of each of the cinemas who worked tirelessly to ensure the event was a great success and to each and every person who took part and made the day so special."

You can still donate to Children in Need through the Cineworld JustGiving page; justgiving.com/company/cineworld.



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