What educators and students are saying about





TASKMASTER CLUB





TASKMASTER CLUB:
A Case Study

Post 16 Education

School: Plympton Academy, Plymouth
Taskmaster: Shaun Willis
Assistant: Ian Hartley (& Little Alex Horne)
Contestants: Year 12 Students
Context: As part of our Sixth Form Personal Development programme, we ran a Taskmaster day to develop the communication, leadership and teamwork skills of our Year 12s. They spent the first 3 hours in their tutor groups, competing in small teams, to become the 'champion' of their tutor group, with the champions then competing during the final hour to be the 'champion of champions'. Within their tutor groups they created raps, pitched ideas, made artwork out of cutlery and decided what was the best duck related thing. Things quickly became competitive with form tutors awarding points for the best ideas or most creative performance. Then the tutor groups made their way to the Main Hall where the Taskmaster himself (our Principal) was waiting in his Golden Chair. At the 'champion of champions', groups pitched the best thing about Plymouth and decided what the best thing to bounce over the Taskmaster's head would be, before the whole tutor group combined to get a ball through a basketball hoop without using their hands. Finally, following a tense elimination battle, 12STA became the overall champions.

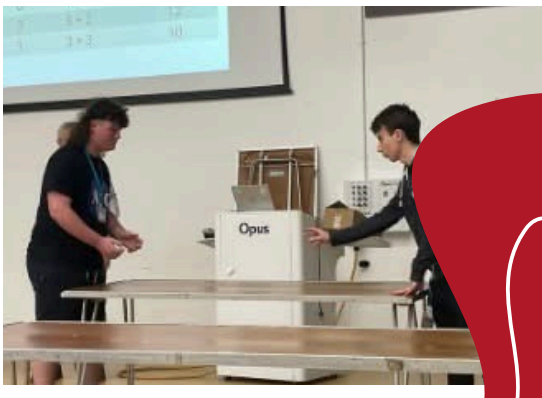






Ian Hartley (Assistant Principal Sixth Form and Personal Development): "We were looking for something different that would encourage our students to work together. We have a mixture of students who have moved up from Year 11 to those brand new to the school and this was a fantastic way to integrate, make new friendships whilst at the same time developing those important communication, leadership and teamwork skills that will be vital for our young people."

Shaun Willis (Principal and Taskmaster): "This was a fantastic experience for our students. To see so much energy and enthusiasm as they competed for their tutor group, working together to solve problems, I can really see the benefits of a day like this."



Stuart Taylor (Director of Sport and Winning Tutor): "Initially I was sceptical about how my tutor group would react but I was absolutely blown away by the whole day. The set up, the tasks and video clips worked really well to engage the students. To see them work together to perform raps, dramatic performances and pitch ideas to each other was fantastic. The tutor group have become closer as a result – more supportive of each other and real 'team'."

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TASKMASTER CLUB:
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Canadian Elementary School

School: Armitage Village Public School, Newmarket, Canada
Taskmaster: Ryan Vickers
Assistant: Little Alex Horne
Contestants: 20 students from Grades 4-6
Context: Even out of the gate, I was amazed when the task was "recreate moments of history with gym equipment" and *without* being able to access computers, books, etc. that we saw everything from the recreation of Joe Carter winning the World Series for the Blue Jays to a recreation of the volcanoes in Pompeii. Both myself and the students enjoyed being able to be wowed and amused by every single task.

Kids are often found discussing what they should bring in for the Prize Task between episodes. Plus "all the information is on the task" has made its way into the classroom vernacular.

For the finale, we decided to do something extra. Our school holds bi-monthly sharing assemblies where we celebrate kids being involved in activities. I decided to do a live task! It was a grand production, which started off with our music teacher playing the Taskmaster theme on the trumpet, the live task itself, and then the awarding of "Goldie", our Taskmaster trophy - to our Series One winners.

There is such a mix of students; part are students that are naturally outgoing but also part are students who see Taskmaster **as their way to shine amongst their peers.**







I joined Taskmaster to experiment and to have fun and collaborate with my teammates. I enjoyed bringing a stuffed animal that looked most like our Taskmaster. That task brought a lot of laughs and smiles. Anytime I hear “Your time starts now!” I can’t help but jump up in excitement. I loved my time in Taskmaster and I can’t wait to play in Season Two. **Theo - Grade 6**



One of the best ways to ever spend your time, if not the best, is when you step into Taskmaster. Hours feel like minutes and minutes feel like seconds. It’s like magic. Let’s just say I marked a fun, first class experience off of my bucket list. **Maya - Grade 5**

This is how much I like Taskmaster: I like how you have to be creative and bring things that are cool. I really liked how you have to work together. I also liked the song in the Junior Taskmaster clips we watched! Some tasks are using creative parts of your brain. **Hyun - Grade 4**

TASKMASTER CLUB:
A Case Study

SEND Education

School: QEII Silver Jubilee School, Horsham
Taskmaster: Stephen Candy
Assistant: Little Alex Horne
Contestants: 8x 14-18 year olds
Context: Lunchtime Club in a special needs school for pupils with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties, or complex needs.



What Mr Candy says:
"Taskmaster Club has been a huge success, really boosting the independence, teamwork and confidence of those taking part (and really impressing me with what they're achieving.) The feedback from teachers with students in the Club has been great too, apparently it's a big favourite so I am really pleased."



What Mrs Elphick (Headteacher) says:
"The Prize Task has really engaged lots of parents and carers into helping out at home and sending in entries. As a special needs school, it is lovely to be involved in a national project that is shared with mainstream schools across the UK as well."



What pupils said:
"I like the sheer madness of Taskmaster Club and how similar it is to the actual show."
– **Harrison, Year 11**

"Everyone has the best time of their lives doing Taskmaster Club."
– **Jamie, Year 13**



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TASKMASTER CLUB:
A Case Study

Primary Education

School: Windmill Primary, Wokingham
Taskmaster: Poppy Bond
Assistant: Little Alex Horne
Contestants: 25x 7-11 year olds
Context: After School Club in mainstream Primary school



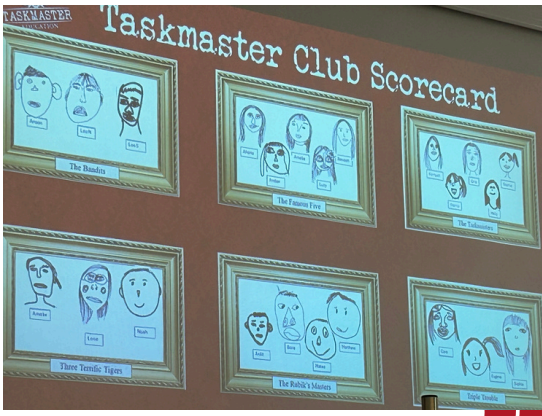
What Mrs Bond says:
"The children who come have been the most inclusive and diverse group. They really love it and I love the way their thinking has developed. They become more confident performers, more outgoing, quite resilient and they become team players understanding that they have a role to play in the team."



What Miss Cotter (Headteacher) says:
"We've definitely seen an improvement in their confidence and self-esteem with those children more willing to share their ideas across a range of situations. Some of the pupils from our harder to reach families don't participate in any other activities but do come to Taskmaster Club and keep coming back, because it's fun. It's pure, unadulterated unhinged joy."



What pupils said:
"I like how it's kind of like a lesson where we learn stuff but at the same time it's loads of fun."
– **Ahana**



"It's a place where you get to do really strange things in front of other people. I've been an opera singing snowman and a serial killer."
– **Lexie**

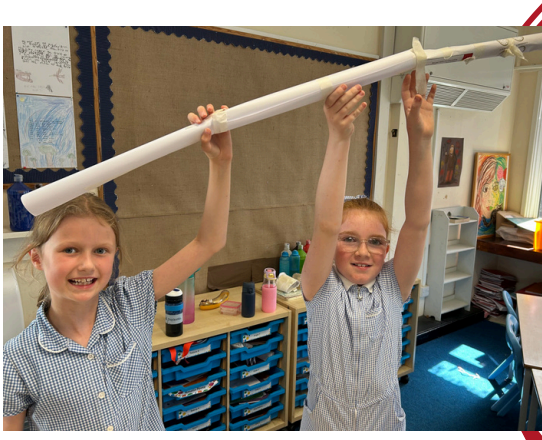
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TASKMASTER CLUB:
A Case Study

Primary Education

School: Jessie Younghusband, Chichester
Taskmaster: Michaela Cooke
Assistant: Little Alex Horne
Contestants: 15x 7-11 year olds
Context: After School Club in mainstream Primary school





What Mrs Cooke says:

"Taskmaster Club is great because the children get to have time to think of their own ideas where sometimes the curriculum can be a bit restrictive. They get to be themselves and think outside the box and it's exciting and silly. The main skill the children develop is teambuilding. They start off having their own ideas but then realise they're only going to get somewhere if they work together. It also builds on their creativity and craftiness as they try not to interpret the task exactly how it's written, but they wonder what they can get away with. I've been really impressed with how inspired and involved the parents have been with the Prize Tasks that the children take home each week. I thought some might forget but they're all involved and bringing in all sorts of really creative things that they've built."



What pupils said:

"I love that the tasks are so random and you sometimes have to use things in a really weird way. It's not like a normal lesson because you can do things differently from everyone else!" – **Joshua**

"Taskmaster Club is one of my favourite things to do at school because every week is different. I always want to know what the next task is going to be!" **– Freya**



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TASKMASTER CLUB:
A Case Study

Primary Education

School: Beacon View Primary, Portsmouth
Taskmaster: Rachel Waters
Assistant: Little Alex Horne
Contestants: 58x Year 6 Pupils
Context: Whole year group working on teamwork and Year 7 readiness



What Mrs Waters says:
"We were looking for something that would bring people together, build a sense of belonging, and we found Taskmaster Club. We have 58 children and we've split them into teams based on where they're going for secondary school to help build friendships ready for Year 7. The videos are fab and it's been really useful having the lesson plan. You can adapt them and do as much as you want or pull it back on the weeks that you don't have as much time. Over the six weeks their public speaking has improved drastically. They're projecting their voices, addressing the audience and having fun with it. We've absolutely loved the Prize Tasks and they've gone way above and beyond with what they've brought in and we've seen more parental engagement with this type of home learning because the pressure is off. It's just been a really great experience for everyone and a nice way to end the year."





What pupils said:
"We get to use our own minds to be creative and work as a team" – **Minnie**

"The best thing has been getting to know the people in our groups more and improving our social skills for the future" – **Dennis**

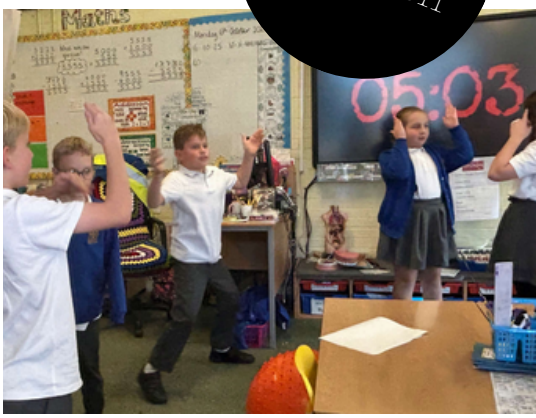


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TASKMASTER CLUB:
A Case Study

Primary Education

School: Birdham CE Primary School
Taskmaster: Emily Ellis
Assistant: Little Alex Horne
Contestants: 14x KS2 Pupils
Context: After School Club in a mainstream Primary school



What Mrs Ellis says:
"We talk about resilience and perseverance a lot at school and Taskmaster Club definitely helps to enhance those skills. Also, because there is no right answer the children have to think outside the box and try different ways of doing things. We have quite a few children who are quite shy normally in their classes so it's definitely bringing them out of their shell a bit more and building their confidence. It's really interesting to see how the different groups decide to approach the tasks with different strategies. What's great about all the tasks is that they're low threshold, high ceiling, so there's an easy way in for everybody, but they can interpret them how they want and there's no limit to what they can achieve and produce. It's really great that they offer a facility for people who get pupil premium funding to reduce the cost of the process so that it's available for everyone."





What pupils said:
"There's not really any rules and there's a bit of freedom" – **Joseph**
"It is funny, it is very challenging and it tires me out" – **Buddy**
"I like it when they make the challenges hard, like measuring the room with socks." – **Etta**



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