

**The Journeys Programme**

Wokingham Borough Council has received funds to provide free workshops for secondary schools and colleges delivered by award winning company Zoielogic Dance Theatre. This is a unique opportunity to access workshops with this company, and which have been designed specifically for this programme.

Sessions are for young people who have resettled in the borough from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Hong Kong providing them with the space to share their stories through movement, creativity, and dance, in a safe, supportive environment. Students gain skills in communication, team work, self-confidence, and a reduction in feeling isolated or alone in their experience of moving to a new country under what was for many, difficult circumstances.

Feedback from schools who took sessions in the summer term, parents/guardian and young people who participated in the August weeklong programme was very positive.

***‘I usually do boxing, and didn’t think this was me, but I’m so glad I did it. I got to share my story, how it’s been for me. People don’t usually ask. I don’t feel like its just me now. Its good [having] a man and woman teaching so if you’re a boy you don’t feel it’s just for girls.’***

***‘I liked the movement, music, and storytelling and everyone sharing their stories of coming here [to the borough]. It’s been difficult moving here… and was good to do something different. I’d like to do more of it.’***

**Who are these workshops for:**

* Workshop groups can be a mix of students from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and/or Hong Kong, or a single country of origin.
* We can work with students with special educational needs, and with varying requirements. No specific skills or abilities are needed to participate.
* Workshops are for secondary school age students.

Please note: practitioners are not bi/multilingual so we would ask that you bear this in mind when selecting pupils to participate. If you would like a member of staff/translator to support sessions please feel free to do so as we would like as many pupils as possible to be able to participate.

**Sessions available:**

* We are now offering a choice of workshops so schools/colleges can choose which they would prefer: One or more half day workshops with up to four half day workshops in total. We can also deliver one of two full day workshops.
* Workshops will be scheduled to fit with your timetable or can take place as an after school/college activity.
* Workshops are available from now until the end of this term.

I hope you will take this opportunity to be a part of this project.

**If you have any questions or would like to book, please contact** **nicola.peacock@wokingham.gov.uk**

**Regards, Nicola Peacock - Wokingham Borough Council**