

What makes a successful community?

A collection of what our Year 7's
believe a successful community is
through art and abstracts from
their essays.

2015/2016

Introduction

One of XP's year 7 expeditions was called 'All together now' and looked at what makes a successful community.

Students focused on reading Seedfolks by Paul Fleishman and delved into the changing community within the book and the different characters. In Crew students read The Giver by Louis Lowry which gave an alternative view of a community.

As part of the expedition students walked around the school's community noting the successful and unsuccessful elements of it and then discussing the successful elements of Doncaster and what makes it this way.

Students looked at examples of successful communities and unsuccessful communities and how they had come together to make it more successful. Students then produced a written reflection on the answer to the guiding question - what makes a success community? They also produced a watercolour painting of an aspect of what they felt makes a successful community.

This booklet is a collection of the artwork students produced along with an extract from their written reflection.



<http://goo.gl/7PJxf7>

"It is almost impossible to do things by yourself, how would you conquer challenges without a helping hand? How would you learn how to do things on a daily basis without people critiquing you? You can't. After weeks of thinking, the Year Sevens are in the process of answering our guiding question "What makes a successful community?"

Challenges are a big thing here at XP, we face some tough ones and some easier ones. For example: Wales. Wales was a challenging experience as we had to climb a steep, uneven mountain. Some found it easier than others. For me it was a real struggle but I knew I could rely on my crew to pick me up and get me back on my feet. The London riots were quite a tragic thing about three years ago. No one was making an effort to make the place a successful community. It was the total opposite, until the next day when a bunch of people came together to sort this disaster out.

Sweeping brushes all over, cleaning products, gloves, communication, everyone made a real change and this shows how a bad community can change into a good community over the space of twenty four hours."



Chloe Ackroyd



“Animals need each other to survive, for example: geese they don’t fly in a beautiful V formation just for fun. They are flying in the V because it helps them. When a goose flaps its wings it pushes the goose behind forward and keeps it motivated. When one is sick others go down to help and when it has passed away then the two others go to another flock. That’s why those majestic creatures are so strong with their community! I really wish that we as humans could learn things from animals, especially geese.”

Kaius Ameri

"We went to a place called Outward Bound, we were like a crew of friendly strangers because at the time we were strangers. But now we are friends who help each other out, and that's how Wales changed us into better people to help one another. We have also been watching about the London riots and how people helped each other fix their homes and even the Prime Minister helped clean up the area."

Ryan Barker



“XP is a successful community because we all have a strong bond and work together. This all began at Outward Bound Aberdovey, in Wales, when we all met. We all helped each other climb up mountains and we did it together and we wouldn’t be able to do it alone. What I’ve learnt is that together you are stronger than an individual.”

Demi Bunting





"I think a successful community is somewhere where people can work hard, get smart and be kind. If everyone was like this there would be no crimes at all. Some of my community is like the book *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman, that we've read in Humanities. *Seedfolks* is about a lot of people that have completely different lives, are different ages and have all come to Ohio. If it had not been for Wendel and Leona who turned a piece of derelict land into a beautiful garden, no one would have grown any food or plants. Kim was the first one to plant anything, she was nine years old plus her dad has died. By the end of the story they were all giving each other food and drink."

Storm Butterworth

“Someone who is alone will never have a successful life. Being alone is like being in a dark room; even if there are more people in that room. You need people to work together to build a successful community. If an individual’s life is in a dark room, the teamwork used to build the community will be poor. People will be left with a bad community, but what for? People can’t just fly away, like geese. People can’t just join another shoal, like fish. We have to stay in the community, or we could go to another town, but we will still live in an unsuccessful community and we could move away, but that takes a while, and a lot of hassle. The video of the geese shows the geese working well as a team. If one dropped out of the flock, two others will go down to help the goose that dropped out.”

Paige Carter



"A couple of days ago, Year 8 (Armstrong Crew) were selling cakes and cupcakes for students to buy, all the money that they made went to a little baby boy called Alexis who sadly may not reach his second birthday as he has a disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). If more communities come together we will be able to make the world a bigger and better place like helping Alexis so he can at least survive to his second birthday with comfort around him giving him a little more happiness for his short life here in the world."

Bailey Cheadle





"There are certain attitudes you need in a successful community. In my opinion I think attitudes of a successful community are: courage, as if you have courage you are brave, respect, because when you have respect you listen to others and their opinions and don't interrupt, friendship, this is important as if you use friendship you are kind and make friends easily, trust, if you are trusted you are allowed to do things, integrity, if you have integrity you tell the truth, teamwork, if you use teamwork you work together with others, and perseverance, if you have perseverance you never give up and keep on going."

Jacob Coates



“How do geese survive alone? How do penguins survive alone? They don’t, they pull together and work as a team. Over the last term our guiding question has been what makes a successful community? I used to believe the only two things you needed to make a successful community were people and buildings. I am extremely surprised to find that my thoughts have completely changed.

I believe that social places are very important as they are a chance for people to come together instead of being solitary. If you go to social places like parks and restaurants, you will be more happy and avoid depression which is good in a successful community as it is not truly a successful community unless everyone is happy.”

Elliot Crawley

"On the video of the geese and penguins they worked together flying in the air and huddling. This helped me answer the guiding question because we looked at animals' communities as well as our own. The penguins bunch up to keep warm and the geese help others when they are out of the flock. If we learn from these animals we will be the best community we can be. These videos most certainly helped me with my final decision of, "what makes successful community?", as the animals used teamwork and showed compassion.

The majestic animals can also bring others together such as dogs, they bring others together by going to the park with a dog and meeting random people who you could be friends with in the future. Cats are another example of teamwork because when they're kittens they huddle up like penguins do, to keep warm."

Owen Crooks





"My school, XP School, shows kindness to our community and the environment around it. Our school is like no other, due to the fact that we use these things called character traits. To be a successful individual you need to show courage, respect, craftsmanship and quality, compassion and integrity. These words are our all important character traits. We use them everyday and they make us better individuals. Due to the fact that we are in a busy community and we are surrounded by members of the community, we have to show all of our character traits. We are also next to a public lake so we have to show respect to it, just like all the other members of the community. Such as when we do running club we run all the way around the lake and we have to show respect by not putting litter in it. "

Annabelle Daley



"Take my community, it's not perfect but its home, there are places to socialise like parks and cafés but unfortunately there other places that have been vandalised. On the bright side, the best part of my community is when Christmas comes around. Everyone decorates the front of their homes and inside their homes. Another great thing about my community at Christmas is that my family is able to drive around and spot the best decorated homes . This gives Christmas spirit and says that my community cares."

Clarice Duffield

"XP is all about good community, when we went to Aberdovey Outward Bound for our first week here and we pretty much knew no one, we showed courage getting on the bus. We respected each other while getting to know each other, when you meet your crew you feel nervous and you don't know anyone but in Wales your crew means a lot to you. I got off the bus with all 50 children and we met our crew instructor. We respected the equipment they let us borrow and we didn't mess around. Also when we were in Wales we hiked up four mountains, it all added up to 6 miles. If we climbed up the mountain on our own it would be pretty much impossible but with other people you can do it. Our crew struggled getting up but we helped each other get through it."

Amy Dunne





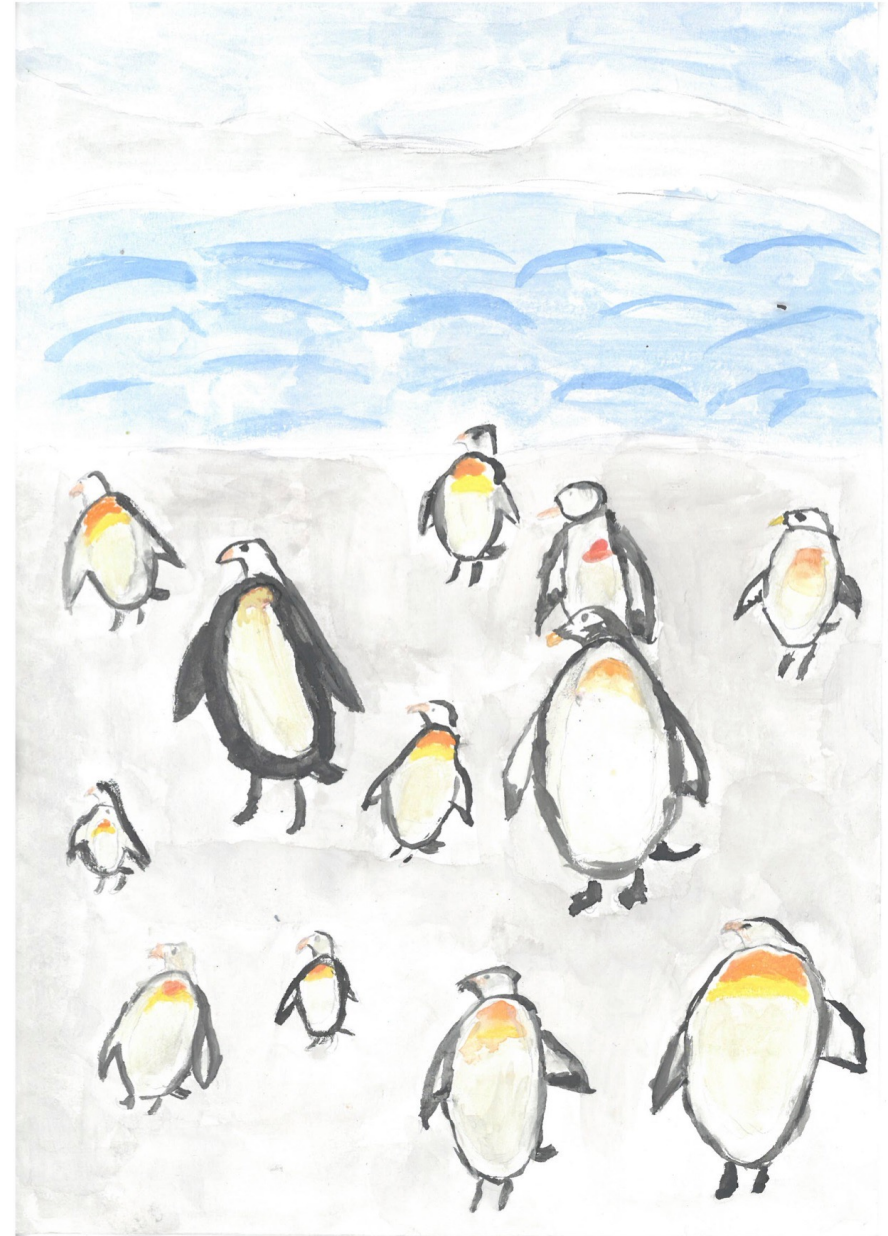
"Imagine what it would be like during the London riots. Think how a successful community can be destroyed so quickly. The one good thing that came out of the riots was how it brought everyone together and how they worked as a team to clean their community. Our guiding question at the moment is 'What makes a successful community?'. I think this is a good example of how a community is brought together. The most important thing in my opinion is people because without people you wouldn't have a community at all. Some say that it is money that makes the world go round, well in my opinion it is people. What do you think about what makes a successful community?"

Kiera Durkin

"How do penguins survive without a group? How do geese get somewhere warm for the winter? How do ants get food without their colony? They don't, they all use teamwork. Without teamwork where would you be? Working together builds a successful community. Teamwork can be just as simple as a smile to each other.

As a student at XP my opinion on what makes a successful community has changed. XP has changed my mind because of the community the school is in, and our trip to Aberdovey in Wales. I thought it was in a pleasant community and I wouldn't like to see either of them being destroyed."

Lauren Empson



"My community is a successful community because there are trees, parks, lakes, a leisure centre, cinema, restaurants and a community centre, also Frenchgate centre. The bad part of my community is the bit where people use bad language, litter, smoke, fight and get drunk. An example of a bad community is the London riots that spread across Britain. The London riots was a terrible situation, people were destroying streets, robbing shops and vandalising private property."

Maisie Finney





"My opinion of what makes a successful community is where there is no vandalism and no litter and people working together. A successful community is where people work together and help each other."

Millie Finney



"I now think about how much we can do to help people of the world get an effective community. If you would want someone to help your community and they did, would you help them with theirs? My school's community is amazing. It teaches us how to show friendship, loyalty and trust as well as helping us show courage, compassion and integrity. Our values require us to work hard and respect others around us, as the school is a public environment. I have made an incredible amount of friends whilst I have been here. Some are not in my class, and others are. When we went to Outward Bound, we gave each other our trust. We couldn't have walked up that mountain without our crews. We couldn't have thrived if we didn't have everyone with us during the gorge walk. What would you do if you got halfway up the mountain then thought you weren't good enough for the rest of the way? Would you just give up? Yes; I bet you would. You would not have anyone to support you, or lift you up when you fall. Nobody. You would be alone. Without friends, family

and companions. Would you change your mind on whether or not you would have others around you? I bet you would. My school is brilliant. I would never have made friends if it wasn't for this inspiring place. I love every minute of it. The awesome trip we went on was life changing. I had a very large amount of fun. This school's community is the best ever.."

Zoe Flatters

"I believe a successful community is people who care for one another and an environment that is perfectly cared for because people can be friends and say that they make the community successful but what's around you also counts for making the community successful. Integrity is needed and kindness, also compassion and courage. Honesty means that you can trust each other, and if you can trust, you can have the courage to be kind and compassionate. So overall, people who care for each other and are kind and make sure that their environment is not an embarrassment to people that live there, that is a successful community."

Amy-Louise Gadd





"No one should be alone, everyone should be part of a community. Being alone is an awful feeling I know that because I have been in that situation myself. Being part of a community is to belong, it's a means of survival because a successful community looks out for itself and others. The whole wide world is as much a community as a nest of ants. All communities are one. We are just split up by language barriers that together we can overcome. All over the world people think they are kicked out of the world, I know because I was one of them, but it turns out you are not because no matter what happens...you are never going to be alone!"

Joel Gardner

"For the first week when we went to Wales we got into our crews and that felt like being in a community, we all stuck together. We worked together as a team to pack our bags for the cabin sleepover. Next morning we packed up again and then we walked for 6 to 7 hours but we all worked together. We did Gorge Walking and our crew worked together to get over logs and down waterfalls. While we were at Wales we bonded with other people. "

Jack Gill



“The end of the London riot is when the community all got together and cleaned up. The good point is that the people who didn’t do anything still helped because they wanted their community back and they probably would forgive them.”

Oliver Gilley



“So what do I think makes a successful community now? It’s all about teamwork and friendships - a bit like our character traits at XP - courage, compassion, craftsmanship & quality, integrity and respect. As long as we use these character traits our community should be fine.”

Emily Greenwood



"I thought before community was just about not littering or not fighting. But it is about many other things, such as; getting along as a family, showing teamwork, showing respect so people respect you back, compassion and being kind."

Brandon Hall



"The most important aspect of a successful community is community spirit and supporting each other. I believe that we should have no racism and vandalism and treat each other how we want to be treated. I think we should also respect wildlife. We need to ensure wildlife habitats can flourish and that there are lots of green areas for people to enjoy, for example, parks and lakes. There should not be any aggression in the community such as bullying or name calling. Kindness is the glue that holds this world together."

Aimee Herriot





“I have been looking at how to make a community successful. Look at penguins, their community is breathtaking. They help each other to stay warm by using teamwork. When they circle up they keep the middle nice and warm, then they swap over to keep the outer ones warm as well.”

James Herriot

“At Outward Bound we made new friends, met the teachers and built a new crew. We built a community by communicating with each other asking teachers questions and making people laugh. So in conclusion Outward Bound was a very positive trip, I would do it again because I made a lot of new friends by talking to other people and helping my team mates.”

Noah Heyes





"In our community we need animals to make the community successful, especially bees, dogs and cats. Dogs make the community better because they make people who are companionless happy. Cats because they stay together to keep warm. In a successful community there needs to be nature, one being trees because trees take in carbon dioxide and breath out oxygen that we inhale to keep us alive."

Toby Kataryna

"A successful community is not only based on people working together, it is also about essential parts of a location. Environment. Is there a piece of litter around you? Is it benefiting your area? Crisp packets, sweet wrappers and juice boxes everywhere! Is that what you want? NO! Your community's reputation is at stake. Do you really want to live in a place that is hideous? You may be thinking it is only a piece of rubbish, but it is really not! That one crisp packet could have destroyed two animals' habitats at once, making them homeless. Is that what you want? A poor animal species being a step closer to extinction? If an animal, a mouse perhaps, got into that crisp packet it could die in an instant, a tiny innocent mouse could die of suffocation. Animals are all important in their own unique way, without them the world would be a poorer place. Everyone has a duty to clean up after themselves and are expected to do so! If everyone did this their community would be an environment to be proud of."

Alisha Kaur



“Look at a good community; take penguins for example. To survive they keep warm by coming together from miles away and huddle up but because it’s colder on the outside of the circles the inside penguins take tiny steps to the outside and the outsiders go in. This shows a lot of character traits such as compassion. This is the type of community that geese show in their migration, for example: when geese migrate they show a lot of compassion and craftsmanship and quality because when the leader gets tired another takes over and when an injured goose flies down to ground two others fly down until it has passed away or it is well enough to fly again. “

Caitlin Lofthouse





"If we don't start showing our community respect we won't have a community. There is a good sense of community in the book called Seedfolks, the people in Seedfolks know what the elements of a successful community are. Seedfolks is a book about a garden in an unsuccessful city, it then transforms to a successful community by people treating it well. Individuals in the community see an opportunity to turn a horrible, dull lot into a majestic, colourful garden. Just like our community, if we treat it well, we will be able to live peacefully with beautiful surroundings in our lives."

Rylie Manion

"I think my community isn't the best community, because in my community it has graffiti on the walls and littering because it just doesn't look nice, but in Seedfolks it's the same because they have a lot (a lot is an empty space in a community but Americans call it a lot) but that turns into a garden. However I think my community is a good one, because it has homes for people to live in, it has a sports field (which is a social place for you and your friends) so you can play football, rugby and cricket and it has an ASDA so people can shop and buy food."

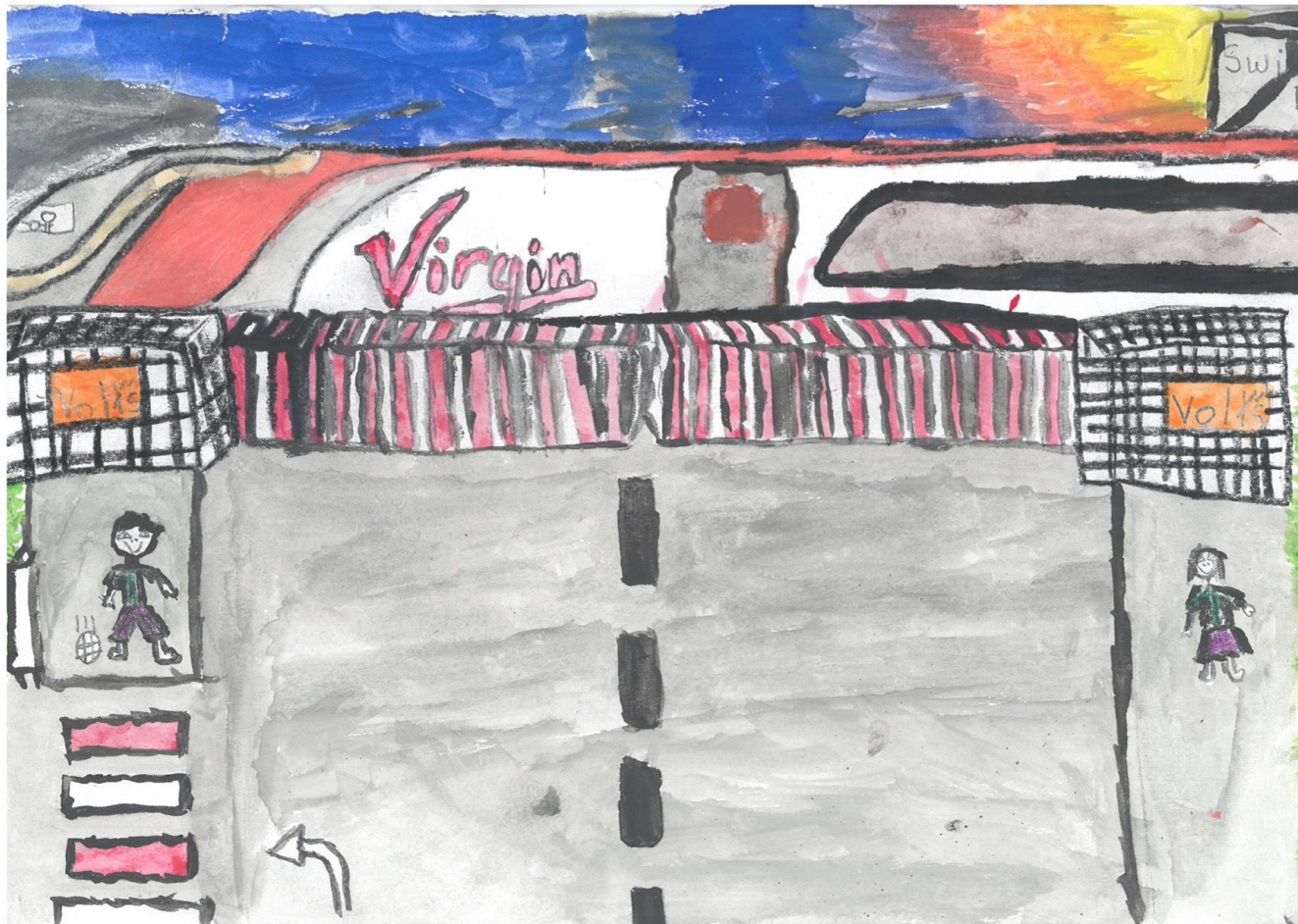
Josh Marshall





"My opinion of a successful utopia is that everyone helps each other and not just dumping rubbish anywhere and respecting the environment and each other. Also we need to be like those animals that help each other even if you don't know people very well. When XP went to Wales on Outward Bound we didn't know anyone but we built friendships by helping each other up mountains and through gorges. In only four days we were a small but successful community."

Alex Mason



"I think a successful community needs to have people and a person that takes control and is in charge of the community so like a King or Queen and maybe a President that you can trust, not like the Giver. The Giver is a book about an unsuccessful community because there is a leader who bosses people around and doesn't care about anyone, so that makes him really selfish and it makes the community strain because the leader has no trust in his people."

Ellis Mawby

“We have been observing what penguins do in their community. But we weren’t expecting to see something so heartbreaking, my school and I had to watch those poor animals huddle desperately for warmth; we realised that they’ve got it harder than we have. We can get warmth by a fireplace or heater to warm our house up. They don’t, they get harsh winds and temperatures that drop below freezing. So the next time you complain about the cold, think... millions of species have to survive a cold which is like sitting in your own freezer until your dying day.”

Zara Mawer



"A successful community needs to be clean, so people can be proud of the place they live in, a good example of this is gardeners because they make public places look outstanding. It's not pleasant living in a place that you look at everyday that makes you want to move because of the state it is in. It's great to see people wanting to make their community look better. There are many ways people can help to improve their area like gardening local parks and picking up any litter that shouldn't be there. This links to a book we're reading, called Seedfolks. it is about an abandoned allotment that changes to a life changing community garden."

Marley McAnulty





"No matter what, we all try our best . We all put rubbish in the bin, we are all kind, we all use integrity and we all use respect evenly. In my community I guess you could say I have a successful community because we have craftsmanship and quality but we have lots of respect."

Matthew McEwen

"In Wales we did lots of different team skills like when we did the long walk and we all helped each other up the hills. Eventually we all made it using teamwork. On the gorge walk, Emily and I helped each other as well as our crew. On the slides I always went before Emily just in case it wasn't safe for her, however all of the slides were safe. On the jetty jump everyone encouraged me to jump off but I didn't, however I said if Emily did it I'd do it. So she did it and then I had to do it unfortunately. Most importantly everyone encouraged each other and Oliver did the most helping up the hill, even though we didn't know each other that well. Courage, Respect, Craftsmanship and Quality, Compassion and Integrity. Why are these all so important? Courage, so people can have the courage to say "Hi" to their neighbours or to say "Hello". Respect, so they don't destroy someone's property and to look out for other people's properties. Craftsmanship and Quality, so people can do anything to learn from their mistakes that they had made. Compassion, so if there was a homeless person the person who saw them would try and help them and if you saw someone upset you would ask them why and listen to them. Integrity, so if you did something bad you would show integrity and say what you have done wrong and try to get help to make it better. These character traits are really important to our school and to the world and these makes a successful community."

Safiyah Monks



"It is almost impossible to do things by yourself, how would you conquer challenges without a helping hand? How would you learn how to do things on a daily basis without people critiquing you? You can't. After weeks of thinking, the year sevens are in the process of answering our guiding question "What makes a successful community?"



Challenges are a big thing here at XP, we face some tough ones and some easier ones. For example Wales, Wales was a challenging experience as we had to climb a steep, uneven mountain. Some found it easier than others, for me it was a real struggle but I knew I could rely on my crew to pick me up and get me back on my feet. The London riots were quite a tragic thing about three years ago. No one was making an effort to make the place a successful community, it was the total opposite, until the next day when a bunch of people came together to sort this disaster out. Sweeping brushes all over, cleaning products, gloves, communication, everyone made a real change and this shows how a bad community can change into a good community over the space of twenty four hours."

Keira Moules



"The perfect utopia is where it is a quiet place and peaceful surrounding with a successful community, like the penguins huddle. Their community works as a team together to make each other warm to make a better community. The penguins live in a cold place and they need radiation to keep warm by huddling together to make each other warm."

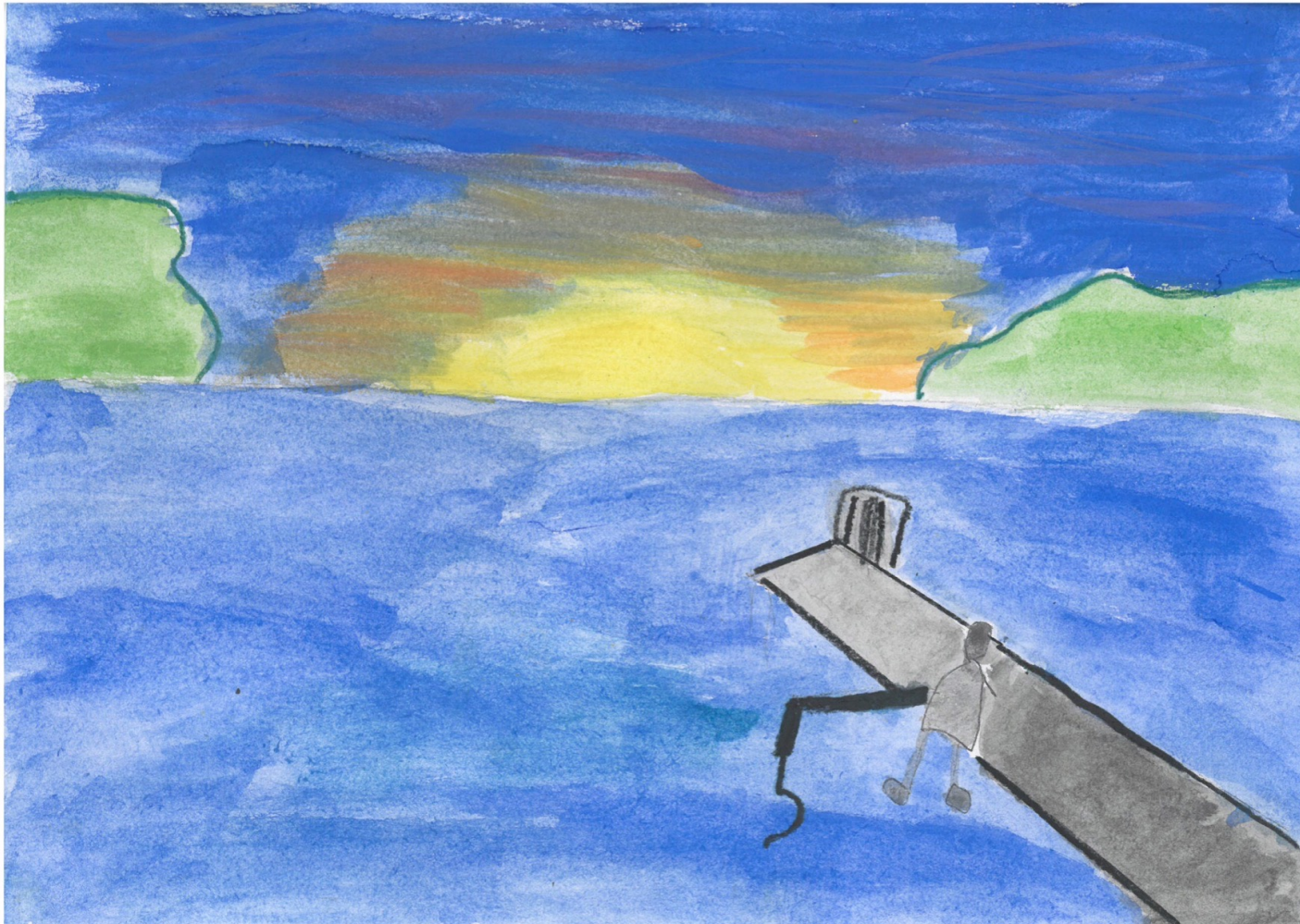
Brandon Nilsen

"Additionally to buildings and wildlife in a successful community you also need things like compassion, respect, courage, integrity and teamwork. These are all aspects which can be shown to others living in your community, it makes it a much more pleasant place.

There are also examples of this in the books *Seedfolks* and *The Giver*, which we have concentrated on for most of this term. These are books which show a full range of community. In *Seedfolks*, it could show a bad aspect, whereas in the next text we see the complete opposite."

Joseph Nixon





"Geese are a good example of a successful community because they all work together. If one of them falls out of the sky two of them will check. Two will fly down and take care of it until it recovers or passes away. They will stay with it if they are ill and then join another flock again for support. The geese fly in a V shape to use each other's energy on their flight."

Jake Riddiough

"The London riots were not all negative, there were also positive parts that came out of it. The London riots made London a horrible place at that time and all the streets were dirty with litter, alcohol, burnt objects and much more. The community wanted to make their community successful again so they all helped each other to sweep up the floors and clean their community. If you have an unsuccessful community by doing the simplest thing ever you can turn it into a successful community. All you need is teamwork, hope and kindness. With those three elements you can have a totally different life. These are my words on 'what makes a successful community'."

Kajal Singh





"I believe what makes a successful community are the people in it and that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and that they are able to make a good impact on the community that can fit to anyone's needs."

Joseph Smith



"Seedfolks is a book about 13 different characters of all different ages and colours. This is a good book because there are lots of different stories and I think the book is set out really good. It definitely shows a good community because there are people helping each other and people working together, they don't judge the people by their colour or race, they all get along together."

Katie Smithstone



"I think my community is a good community because we have homes, pubs, shops, schools and food outlets. These are good places to have in your community because you can buy food from shops, pubs you can socialise in, schools are for good education and food outlets to eat and socialise. We also have places to socialise like the park, the woods and the shop. Lastly we have plenty of homes for people so in my community no one lives on the street."

Kelly Wain

"Love and friendship is needed in a perfect community, or family. If there is no love or friendship in a family or community, even within friends, it won't do. What about integrity? If your family didn't show integrity to each other well there would be a lot of secrets in your family. A community is the same, if a community is terrible no one would know anything about each other."

Oliwia Walczak



"We should have animals, like bees for example, without bees we would have no honey or flowers and bees are becoming extinct. We should look after our animals because they are a part of our world. Caring for the environment is important to the world. It wouldn't be very good if we didn't care for the environment."

Georgie Watson





"I'm sure that you will agree, that social places are really important in a community because if nobody knows each other there would not be a community because rather than having a community people will just grow up alone. Social places are also fun which is good because we as humans need a balance between work and fun. Social places will be all around you and that is definitely a good element of our community."

Ben Wheatcroft

