

Site

HMYOI Wetherby

Name of project / initiative

Lego League

Overview

The "IET" Lego League is a worldwide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activity. Young people compete in teams to design, build and programme a robot to autonomously meet a particular challenge (which changes each year). They are also set a problem-solving challenge to which they must come with an innovative solution and present it to a panel of judges. The young people within our care often struggle to engage in routine lessons and to work together with others. [Although the League is normally limited to 16 and under, we have been given special dispensation to include young people up to the age of 18.] The Lego League is a fun and interactive way to engage the young people in education, build their confidence, and teach them problem solving and programming skills, as well as teamwork skills, which we hope will help them within the establishment, and also provide them with skills to help them make a successful return to the community on release. It is also a good way to engage young people with challenging behaviours and mental health issues, including those who are self-isolating / refusing to engage with the wider regime – and we have seen a rise in engagement beyond the Lego league itself, including in wider educational activities, among those who have taken part. Plans for the next stage of development include setting up an inter-wing league, and potentially a league across the YCS estate.

Longevity

Wetherby first took part in the Lego Challenge League in 2022.

Benefits

The benefits of the programme are outlined above.

Uniqueness

As far as we are aware, we are the only establishment in the UK currently taking part.

Applicability

We hope to engage all the YCS establishments in the Lego League.

Requirements

There is a cost to engagement, although IET (the company behind the league) may be prepared to reduce the cost, including supplying the necessary equipment free of charge.

For more information:

Contact: Jordan Halstead, Band 4 Youth Justice Worker, Jordan.Halstead@justice.gov.uk
See also: <https://bit.ly/Lego-league> [Lego league site]

Submitted by:

Craig Lowe, Deputy Governor, Craig.Lowe@justice.gov.uk