

Joint Parish Youth Club – Term 1 Summary

06 November 2025

Our first 6 week term has been a success and marks a positive turning point for the club.

We introduced a new rota system this term and, for the first time ever, have been fully staffed every week. This has made an enormous difference - the atmosphere feels calmer, the young people are more settled, and the team are able to run activities smoothly. Having casual staff agree to rota'd shifts has brought real stability and consistency, allowing everyone to plan ahead and support each other effectively.

We also trialled a split-group system to help manage space and behaviour. Each session now runs as two rotating activities, for example, crafts upstairs and games/PlayStation/pool/air hockey downstairs. This new structure has worked extremely well. The building feels less crowded, the noise levels are down, and young people are far more engaged.

There were some early protests about being separated from friends, but we've built in social time for everyone during tuck and the closing part of each session. The result is that young people are leaving calmer and happier, and there's now a clearer rhythm to each evening.

Our weekly themed activities have gone down brilliantly. We've made badges, created Halloween pumpkins and a mural in collaboration with Greening Steyning (a huge thank you to Maggie, who will be joining us again at Christmas after such a positive experience), and this week we're making edible sparklers and exploding fireworks art (string pull technique). These sessions give young people the chance to achieve something creative each week, boosting confidence and pride.

The team are in good spirits. The fee increase has been well received, and staff have shown commitment to their own development. Most have now completed their NSPCC safeguarding training, and all have been asked to attend an online Drugs and Substance Use Awareness course and review our updated policies as part of the annual review.

Operationally, our radios have been vital since introducing the split-group setup, and our detailed weekly session plan ensures everyone knows their role ahead of time - both of which have contributed to calmer, more consistent sessions.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on communicating plans for the new Friday sessions at The Steyning Centre:

- Junior Club: Fridays, 4–6pm - designed for those who prefer a calmer environment and to ease challenging friendship dynamics.
- Homework Club: running between the Junior and Older sessions - offering support and leadership opportunities for our older youth.
- Older Club: Fridays, 7–9pm, for those aged 13+, providing a more age-appropriate space and encouraging mentoring between groups.

We'll also be working on introducing photo ID cards for members, which have proven effective in other youth clubs for:

- Streamlining registration and safeguarding
- Helping staff learn names and track attendance
- Creating a sense of belonging and pride for members.

Over the next few weeks, we'll continue building consistency in the new systems, identify who might be ready to move to the older group, and explore setting up a Zoom Youth Focus Group in the new year so our young people can share their voices and ideas directly.

Finally, I'm developing a parent feedback form, as we're currently short on feedback and want to strengthen our communication with families moving forward.

All in all, it's been a really strong start to the year – we've found a structure that works, a team that feels confident and connected, and young people who are calmer, happier, and more engaged.

– Vicky

Lead Youth Worker

Joint Parish Youth Club