



Plock Court & Oxstalls Sports Park

4th and 6th November

Since we began, our focus at Prospect Training Services (PTS) has always been giving opportunities to those who have been less fortunate, those who have struggled to merge in with 'traditional' education as a result of their circumstances.

Our ESOL programme is designed to support individuals whose first language is not English—many of whom have had to leave their home countries due to conflict or difficult circumstances. Arriving in England can be overwhelming, especially when the language, culture and values are unfamiliar. We recognise these challenges, and we are committed to offering a safe, welcoming place where learners can rebuild confidence and begin a new chapter.

In addition to classroom learning, we like to boost our learners' skills by undertaking activities outside, something different from the 'normal' learning environment. This type of learning is not only beneficial for academic success but also contributes to the development of lifelong skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving and communication. Not only this, but outdoor learning supports mental health and well-being, boosts community involvement and encourages active learning. The benefits are endless.

As the majority of our current cohort are male, we canvassed the learners, and one of the first activities they wanted to do was have a football coaching session. With this in mind, a number of our staff organised a set of activities for our ESOL learners with two trips to Plock Court. This is a large leisure centre with significant sports facilities and open spaces for recreation; we hired a number of pitches and coaches and provided lunches for 34 ESOL learners.



Unlock your potential, shape your future!



To make the session as engaging as possible, and so that they understood what was asked of them in the simplest format. Ewen Saunders, our Operations Director, volunteered to run the sessions; here's what he had to say: "The learners' engagement and capacity to take on instructions and carry out specific warm-up exercises, drills and a refereed match was excellent. Learners seemed to enjoy it and have fun."

"I wanted to say a huge thank you to the staff who made it happen and were there on the days to support too. A special thanks to Sally Cope (ESOL Engagement/Support and Tutor), Rosie Clayton (Learning Support Worker), Youstina Abdelmalak (ESOL Tutor) and Mojtaba Gholizadeh (ESOL Functional Skills Maths Tutor) for escorting the young people to both events and making sure they were managed well. Also, thanks to David Beale (Maintenance Officer) for being our dedicated first aider, coach's assistant and goalkeeper."

"I had the pleasure, and I mean pleasure, of coaching the learners this week, and they all did themselves proud, got involved and left happy. They also did PTS proud with how they conducted themselves and respected instructions and the staff as well as the venue."

Overall, the week was a great success, and the learners are already looking forward to their next trip!

Also, these activities wouldn't have been possible without the crucial funding from **The Virtual School** who work to raise the educational attainment and attendance of children and young people in the care of Gloucestershire Local Authority. To find out more about The Virtual School, [please click here](#).

If you would like to find out more about our **ESOL Study Programme**, please contact Sally Cope via **01452 300255** or sallyc@prospect-training.org.uk.

