

## Volunteering

*A way to learn new skills, access training opportunities and progress onto employment*

### Tower Project

A six week programme where eight students from Hackney Community College and Hackney Learning Trust joined our Customer Service team volunteering one day a week for six weeks.

The programme was part of JETs – a new project delivered by the Tower Project which helps Students gain specific work experience in three different settings over four months. The first phase took place at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Students were volunteering both at the Park's Information Point as well as out on the Park helping visitors, learning about the Park's Mobility Services, and what it is to become a volunteer. All this has given the young people realistic work experience across a range of roles, notably Customer Services.



Graham Smithers, Head of Services, Tower Project, Job Enterprise and Training Service (JET) said:

“We would like to thank Our Parklife for their help with young people with special educational needs in East London. Just 7% are in paid employment and schemes like this will go a long way to ensure that more young people with learning disabilities will gain paid employment in the future either at the Olympic Park or at similar thinking establishments.”

Rowan Longhurst, General Manager Our Parklife said:

“It's been fantastic having the students from the Tower Project join our dedicated team of Park Champion volunteers here at the Park. We're committed to providing local young people with the opportunity to be the face of the Park through volunteering on a range of roles – whether it's Customer Services, event support or helping tend to the parklands. The skills they learn with us can open exciting new doors to a range of opportunities that are evolving on the Park all the time.”



Over the course of the 6 weeks placement, students worked towards an Entry Level 3 accredited training in Customer Service, learnt about the Park's diverse facilities, activities and events and the range of careers available on the Park-everything from Visitor Services to security, engineering, cleaning and grounds maintenance.

