

Spooky horror launch for new HeadSpace Kinson

Young people from Kinson are invited to learn the skills of horror writing at a special event at the Kinson Hub, Bournemouth on Wednesday 29 September 2010 to mark the opening of HeadSpace.

Horror author Alexander Gordon Smith will be giving an action packed guide to horror writing for local young people aged 11 and over in the Kinson Hub's new HeadSpace area.

HeadSpace is a completely different kind of library service developed and run in partnership with young people and The Reading Agency, the independent charity working to get more people reading more.

HeadSpace Kinson is part of a project managed by The Reading Agency to provide environments in libraries and youth centres where young people are involved in the design, planning and running of their new spaces, where they can chill out and enjoy cutting-edge reading experiences.

Local young people have been at the heart of developing this visionary new approach to teenage library services in Bournemouth.

Lily Stockdale, aged 11 has been involved in producing a DVD for HeadSpace Kinson and says: "My friend told me about HeadSpace and it sounded really fun so I wanted to join."

HeadSpace will be a hub within libraries for young people to feel engaged and welcomed. Some of the most innovative elements of the project came from the young people themselves and local young people have been instrumental in choosing the furnishings and stock for their new space. HeadSpace volunteers will continue to shape the project through the development of a programme of creative events in the months and years to come.

Commenting on the launch of HeadSpace, Councillor Ian Lancashire, Cabinet Member for Arts and Culture said: "This is a fantastic facility for young people living in the Kinson area and the fact that young people themselves have been involved in creating and designing their own HeadSpace area within the Kinson Hub is great. The launch event promises to be great fun and I would like to encourage local residents to come down to the newly built Kinson Hub to take a look for themselves at this valuable community resource."

Claire Styles, HeadSpace project manager for The Reading Agency comments: "The HeadSpace project is driven by young people's ideas and The Kinson Hub is really showing how libraries are working in partnership with young people to make their ideas happen. The project is bringing more young people into libraries by showing them that

libraries are welcoming and inspirational places where they can get involved in their communities.” The Kinson Hub is on the look-out for young people aged 11 to 19 years who are interested in accredited volunteering opportunities in HeadSpace. Come to the launch to find out more. Local young people aged 11 and over are welcome to attend the launch which starts at 5.30pm and runs until 7pm.

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To attend the launch or for further local information:
Julie Munson, Media and Communications Officer 01202 454668.

For general information about HeadSpace or The Reading Agency:
Debbie Hyde, Oasis Media: debbie.hyde@oasismedia.co.uk 07956 320 486

Photo opportunity:

The Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor Barry Goldbart will officially open the new HeadSpace area on Wednesday 29 September at 5pm in the Kinson Hub, Wimborne Road.

Notes to editors:

- Founded in 2002, The Reading Agency is an independent charity and reading development agency. It aims to get more people reading more and is passionate about everyone having an equal chance to become a reader. For general information, please visit: www.readingagency.org.uk
- During the summer of 2006 The Reading Agency worked with almost 700 young people to develop the HeadSpace concept, resulting in a Big Lottery award of £575,000. From spring 2007 The Reading Agency worked in partnership with young people and 20 library services in four English regions to pilot HeadSpace. Some of the most innovative elements of the project have emerged from the young people themselves. HeadSpace is now available for all library services and schools to become a part of, for more information: www.readingagency.org.uk/young/headspace