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## Crown Circular

July 2023

### The Junior Club completes its first year



The Junior Club is now a full-time, permanent fixture at Crown & Manor. Local boys can now join at the age of 6, moving seamlessly across to the main club at the same age that they move on to senior school. That's an extra five years of using our fabulous facilities, making good friends, enjoying fantastic new opportunities, developing new skills, finding a new focus or direction, benefiting from excellent mentoring and - yes - staying safe.

Word of mouth has long been seen to be our best form of recruitment but our staff have supplemented this with leafleting drives in the local area. It's very pleasing to see that the take-up of places at the club has gone well.

Junior Club members have a slightly more structured session at the club but it is nonetheless varied: football, tennis, Nerf gun battles, a broad range of boardgames as well as lots of different arts and craft based activities. In the glorious weather earlier this summer (seems like years ago now) staff were able to take the members out to play volley ball or tag rugby.



Our due diligence before we opened the club was well done and there have been few surprises. However, there is one thing that we had not anticipated. Many of members have a free school meal, so they don't need to take food to school. When they arrive at the club at 3.30pm they are hungry. Behaviour tends to go awry when a young boy is hungry and we have therefore recently trialled making a healthy snack available for those Junior Club members that need it. It has been very well-received.

£100 covers the cost for a month. We are therefore looking for a number of donors who might consider funding fruit for the Junior Club for a month either on a one-off or an annual basis. If you were able to consider either of these options the means of donating is here:

[Fruit for a month - as a one-off](#)

[Fruit for a month - annually](#)

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## Fantastic table tennis success



Table tennis has long been enjoyed at Crown & Manor but we seem to have increased interest and some definite talent amongst our members at the moment. Many are keen enough to have invested in their own bats. A good few members make a point of turning up for our weekly coaching sessions and really seem to enjoy it. In September, we will be capitalising on this interest and playing regular matches against other clubs.

This year, we had seven members representing the club in the regional table tennis tournament held by the Essex Boys' and Girls' Club. Mundiir Mohammed, playing in the U14s, finished second and Leonat Kelmendi, who represented the U12s, also came second. This meant they both qualified for the national tournament in Lincolnshire.

It was an early start for the nationals, leaving the club at 6.30am, but well worth it - both boys won a bronze medal in their class in what was just their second ever table tennis tournament. Congratulations to both boys and many thanks to staff members Andrew and Flamur for enabling them to be able to take up this opportunity.

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One of the many offerings of Crown & Manor is to extend the experience of its members. We have been lucky enough to develop close involvement with a kind donor from The Ambassadors Theatre Group. From this, we were able to take a group of 10 boys to see The Lion King in April. For most of them it was their first experience of the theatre - and it did not disappoint! The boys were taken backstage to see how things work behind the scenes. They built a theatre out of Lego and there was a brief drama workshop. A big thank you to the team at ATG who arranged this for our members.

ATG is continuing to work with Crown & Manor once a month by providing a drama/performing arts workshop at the club. Initial response was cautious but the positivity is spreading with more members signing up for the next one. It is an incredibly experience for our members and adds a valuable breadth to what Crown & Manor offers its members. We are immensely grateful to ATG for partnering with us in this way.





**Ambassador Theatre Group x Crown and Manor**

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