

Festival of Ideas Report 2014

From **Friday 24th – Friday 31st October**, the Faculty of Education hosted a week of events as part of the University's annual Festival of Ideas. Over the week, **289 people attended the events** – **67** people booked to attend the **public BIBAC conference events**, **151** people attended our **evening lectures**, and on our Friday **family day** we welcomed **71** children and their accompanying adults into our building.

Yet again we had lots of people visiting us for the first time who commented on how lovely our building was and how fascinating it was to find out about all the things we do here. It was another wonderful opportunity to **engage with the public, the wider University and the press** and let them know about who we are, the huge range of study programmes and research we have happening here and the fantastic building in which we work.

From Friday 24th – Sunday 26th October the public had a chance to attend free events as part of the **BIBAC conference**, organised by **Pam Burnard**, with a wide range of talks and workshops around **intercultural arts and creativity** drawing in the crowds.

On Monday 27th, **Rocio Garcia-Carrion** and **Linda Hargreaves** spoke to us about **dialogic literary gatherings**, with a little help from young research project participants Connor, Daniel and Leo. On Tuesday 28th, **Terence Bevington** and **Luke Roberts** had the audience in fierce debate about **restorative approaches to conflict in schools**. On Wednesday 29th, **Simon Brownhill** spoke to us about **the 'brave' male educator in early years and primary settings**, and on Thursday 30th, **Clementine Beauvais** tackled the topic of **'gifted' children and pushy parenting** from literary and cultural perspectives.

On Friday 31st October, the Faculty building was filled with excitable children and their equally excitable parents and carers. The **'Magical Me!'** event included Hallowe'en themed activities based around **language, music, poetry, art, drama** and **stories**, with **17 different activity stations** across the ground floor of the Faculty.

Every single feedback card handed in at the Magical Me! event rated it as 'very good', with one comment reading:

"This is the third Education Faculty event I have brought my children to and yet again they were quite taken with all of the fun ways to learn and be creative. Thank you to all the lovely people making this happen!"

The **photo board attached to this report** will give a small indication of what was going on and the level of learning and laughter filling the building!

A **huge thank you** goes out to everybody who helped or got involved, in whatever capacity – it was fantastic to have such a great team working to make sure the events ran smoothly. I am very grateful to all the staff and students who gave up their time to make yet another Festival success.

Jacqui Howard

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