

Activity Leader

STAFFORD HOUSE
Summer

HELLO Summer



SUMMER AND YEAR-ROUND LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES IN THE UK, USA & CANADA

STAFFORD HOUSE
Summer

Saturday

Today was my first day. I arrived at the school, a little early mind you, but was shown where to wait. Not long after, I was met by the management team who all seemed really nice. The other activity leaders and teachers turned up – they were very friendly and chatty, which has made me feel at ease and excited about working with them.

Had a good induction, quite long, but good to know all the information (hopefully I've remembered most of it!). Everyone seemed willing to help and some of the activity leaders had worked for Stafford House Summer before. I'm a bit nervous about planning a successful activity but it's good to know there are people around to help me. We also have lots of resources available.

After the induction, I helped unpack a lot of the activity equipment with the senior activity leader. I then helped with signposting the centre, in preparation for the students arriving. At the end of the day, a welfare officer showed me to my room – which wasn't too bad, similar to my halls at university.

Sunday

Lots of students arrived today, it was quite hectic! I helped the welfare staff do tours of the campus for the new students (a little tricky as I only arrived yesterday!) but it went well and the students all seemed really fun. They were very excited though so I had to 'throw' my voice around a bit to make myself heard.

I supervised the first half of dinner, it was a little crazy with so many students – and the kitchen staff were getting a little agitated but once we got the students organised it became much calmer. The kitchen staff said it was always like this on the first day and they didn't seem to mind once we had everything under control.

I worked with the other activity leaders in the evening running some icebreaker activities. There was a great atmosphere amongst the students and staff. I feel quite relaxed in my new role already.

Monday

I did breakfast supervision, so quite an early start. Thankfully our instructions must have sunk in yesterday as the students were (mostly) behaving themselves and queuing sensibly for breakfast.

After breakfast, I was on planning for the activities which I was quite nervous about, myself and another more experienced activity leader, began planning a murder mystery activity. We had a brief meeting with the AM beforehand who gave us some pointers, and showed us where the resources were, as well as giving us logins for the computers. I felt it all went well and it was good to have some direction and be able to throw ideas around with the other activity leader.

I had the afternoon off so messaged a few friends and family to let them know how I was getting on.

In the evening, we had a welcome disco - great fun! Most of the students really enjoyed it - I had to convince some of the other students to join in a bit - this mainly involved me dancing, and when they saw me making a fool of myself, they joined in too!

Had to do lights out duty at the end of the day. I'm glad I was with one of the welfare staff who knew the layout of the buildings well as it was quite confusing! It all went smoothly though, apart from two students who were making a lot of noise. I was pleased to go to sleep after quite a long day!

Tuesday

Had the morning off so got up late. What a luxury! After an extra hour of sleep, I ran through the excursion itinerary again. I was a little apprehensive about taking the students on an excursion but I was pleased I was working with a more experienced activity leader on my first one. They led the tour and I was stationed at the back - making sure all the students kept up the pace. We had a good pre-excursion meeting with the AM too which was great, having all the tour instructions and procedures was really helpful.

We got back a little late as one of the group leaders was late back to the meeting point - after telling the students numerous times to make sure they meet back on time, it was a little annoying. The AM had a word with them when we got back so hopefully, it won't happen again! At least the students were on time!

I supervised the free time session in the games room, it was nice to chat with the students and find out about their countries and cultures.

In the evening, we put on a bin bag fashion show, which was hilarious. The students got really into it and it was so funny watching them model the outfits they made. I'm finding the role really rewarding and nice to have a job that is so much fun!

Wednesday

Today was my day off! I went into town with one of the welfare staff who also had their day off, did a bit of shopping and had a coffee. Talked shop, obviously. They told me about some problems with bullying but the centre director was on top of it pretty quickly. Must remember to keep my eye out for things like that, especially since they can't articulate their problems sometimes. Just chilled in the evening with a film on my laptop. Felt well rested!

Thursday

Breakfast duty again. Trying to get the Italians to eat more than pastry and coffee so that they get some energy for the morning but think it's a losing battle.

Finished the last of the prep for the murder mystery activity happening tonight. Was really pleased with our efforts!

Had a meeting with the AM and other excursion staff before the afternoon excursion to Worcester. I was much more nervous this time around as I was leading the tour. But, it actually went really well. I did get a little lost at one point but thankfully the other AL was quick to correct it and no one really noticed.



It was a bit more difficult to address the group to give them information and some fun facts, especially in the busier areas. I made sure I was in a good position, where everyone could see and hear me. Everyone met back on time (even the group leaders who were late on the last excursion).

Tonight, was the murder mystery! I led the pre-activity meeting with the other activity leaders so everyone knew their role and what was going to happen. The CD even got involved - and did a great job acting as the murder victim! The students had a great time and I even got complimented by one of the group leaders for organising 'such a fun activity'.

Was really buzzing today as I felt I was really getting into the role!

Friday

Quite an easy day today after a very busy one yesterday! Didn't have to work until the afternoon. It's quite nice having such a varied schedule - beats the 9-5 job I did last summer!

I helped out on mini Olympics in the afternoon, one student fell over and hurt his leg so I had to take him to the welfare staff to get first aid - I think I'd like to get the first aid qualification ready for next summer. The rest of the activity went well though, although towards the end, some of the students were getting bit tired so we had to keep them motivated.

London excursion tomorrow... I hope that goes well.