

# Swapping and Learning

As part of the club's Football and Education project, a series of educational activities have been developed, including creating a Match Attax Swap Club with a difference.



Topps Direct, who produce the Match Attax football cards collection, were approached by the team running the project. The team explained what the project was about and how it had identified that literacy and numeracy learning could take place by engaging with the information on the cards, and the company agreed it would be a worthwhile project to get involved in. Topps Direct kindly donated a box of cards to kick-start the Swap Club.

This part of the Education project is aimed at primary schools and the club is piloting this aspect of the project with Totternhoe Lower School, in Dunstable. To this end, Debbie Mitchelmore, deputy head, who is leading the project in the school, asked her Year 4 class for volunteers for the club. Five students volunteered to join the club, which takes place every two weeks on a Friday during the students' designated Golden

Time. This is a period of time where they can participate in fun activities.

## Enjoyable

The aims of the club are for the children to collect cards, learn to socialise with other children, learn how to swap and negotiate, and more importantly develop their literacy and numeracy skills that fit in with National Curriculum objectives. They will develop these skills through understanding and then writing about the data and statistics on the cards they have collected. The project has been running throughout the spring term and the students have really enjoyed the experience. The Swap Club sessions start off with the students being given a few packs of cards and then asked to sort them out so they can swap and learn.

One of the activities involves the students being given a budget of £55 million and

creating a team based on the transfer value of players which is indicated on each card. This not only involves identifying players that fit into the budget but also develop skills in terms of adding up figures with decimal points. The students love this activity as it really tests their numeracy and organisational skills.

## Understanding

Another activity involves sorting out the cards into football teams and then the teams and individual player cards into alphabetical order. The aim of this activity is four-fold: first, to further develop their understanding of the alphabet; second to develop their understanding of the construction of names and words and the importance individual letters play in this; third, to develop their pronunciation skills; and finally to develop their organisational skills.

Some sessions have been more about the learning activities than the swapping because the students have, for example, enjoyed creating a team within a budget. The students are also rewarded with house points if they successfully complete an activity or task.

Significantly, the students have taken the decision that once they have finished collecting and swapping for the season, they will give all their spare cards to schoolchildren in Ghana through the Leadership for Learning Network. A generosity of spirit that is to be much admired in these fine young people.

*Dr Alex Alexandrou*