

ISA Awards 2021 Case Study: Outstanding Local Community Involvement

LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL

JUNE 2022



**LEIGHTON PARK
SCHOOL**

Background to the School

Leighton Park, founded in 1890 as a boys school, is now a co-educational day and boarding school that sits in 65 acres of parkland south of Reading, attracting pupils from over 20 different countries and led by their Head Matthew Judd since September 2018.

With the Quaker values of simplicity, truth, respect, integrity, peace, equality and sustainability at the heart of all they do, each student is given the gentle scaffolding they need to explore the wide variety of opportunities before them. They learn how they as individuals can not only find a place to be themselves in their school community, but also how they can be a positive influence on wider society.

Supportive relationships are developed and sustained between the students and the staff which gives a foundation of confidence on which they can grow. Everyone is encouraged to get involved, to find something that they really love, in an inclusive and aspirational environment.

Leighton Park School won the ISA Award for Outstanding Community Involvement in both 2020 and 2021.

'Developing kind and compassionate leaders for the future is an important part of how we give our Quaker values currency and purpose. Our mutually beneficial partnerships with community and educational organisations give us insight, strength and courage to look within and strive for a fairer, better society.'



Head: Matthew Judd



www.leightonpark.com



LET'S READ
TOGETHER

AIMS

- To keep the Quaker values at the heart of all our partnerships.
- To develop mutually beneficial partnerships with both community and educational organisations.
- To develop kind and compassionate leaders for the future.
- To strive towards supporting a fairer, better society.

ACTIONS

A number of initiatives were put in place across the school involving staff and students.

- *Let's Read Together* involved Year 10 and Year 12 students and teachers sharing the gift of story telling via video, letters and online meets. They worked closely with community partners Loddon Primary and ABC to Read to aid younger pupils in their reading and ran weekly online buddy sessions during lockdown.
- The *Be inspired* KS2 programme provided masterclasses and buddy programmes for local primary schools. This included STEAM workshops and sports skills, motivating the pupils and developing their skills.
- Bespoke workshops were developed for schools in art and drama, focusing on the environment and enabling everyone involved to feel part of major change.
- *Let's Cook Together* provided cooking challenges and recipes via video, recipe cards to local primary schools and then welcomed them into Leighton Park. The *Senior Creativity, Activity Service* students also provided ingredients and supplies as well as equipment to 26 families to allow them to also take part.
- We have continued to forge links with the *Foundry Pupil Referral Unit*, giving their KS4 students access to music technology and production at Leighton Park, teacher care packages to staff during lockdown, work experience for their Year 10 and Year 11 students and a space for their staff to hold INSET days. Leighton Park received leadership frameworks for relationship management and bespoke 1:2:1 support by specialist staff for students with specific pastoral needs from Foundry.
- Provided nutritious meals to families in need through our *Feeding Communities* programme.
- A reading partnership with Age UK provided care packages and letters to elderly and vulnerable adults from Y9.
- The *2020 face shields project* provided over 20,000 face shields and £2500+ in donations for key workers to develop their much needed rest rooms.
- Working with Ethical Reading gave students an opportunity to engage with local industries in the area - expanding their knowledge on business courses.
- *Amicus*, our student led charity society for Year 11 to Year 13 students contributed to a wide range of causes and some with long-term commitment including a Christmas campaign delivering toys to Reading Family Aid's appeal and Ukraine humanitarian aid through the Red Cross.
- House charities organise events for chosen charities led by students.
- Parent and staff committees model fundraising and service events for the students which has resulted in a partnership with the Whitley community.
- International partnerships: Kits to Africa, Amnesty International and a model UN.
- Sixth Form students engaged with the Livingstone trust in Tanzania.



OUTCOMES

- Students involved with other schools formed a connection with the children that they worked with and developed their compassion through kindness and respect.
- Students got a real sense of achievement and saw the value of their work as they made a difference developing young children's skills and experiences.
- Relationships between Leighton Park School staff and those of other schools and organisations were extended so that benefits beyond those initially planned were realised on a whole-school and individual basis.
- Contacts were established between local industries and the school allowing students practical opportunities to see how the future could be shaped and see first hand how important ethical business practices are.
- Charity work organised and carried out by students exemplified what they can do to make a real difference within the school, the local and wider community, and nationally and internationally.
- The partnerships made a real impact on and difference for local families and communities.
- Students learnt from their parents who acted as role models within charity partnerships, strengthening family bonds while making a valuable difference.
- Sixth formers visiting Tanzania had the opportunity to build, educate and support communities.
- Find out more: https://youtu.be/X_4PK5Qy8PI



NEXT STEPS

As we move into the next phase of our partnership work it is important for us to maintain what has already been established and is working well for our own community, as well as those that we have developed strong relationships with. In addition, we are aiming to extend our provision and opportunities for Year 7 and Year 8 as well as develop a partnership with the University of Reading.

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