

London Education Partnership Awards

Rewarding partnerships,
raising aspirations



WINNERS 2011

Congratulations

Over the past five years the London Education Partnership Awards have highlighted examples of organisations working together to raise the aspirations and achievements of Londoners. While entries continue to evolve, the level of excellence and creativity of the work being carried out remains consistently high. The panel has been impressed by the variety of the partnerships that have been presented this year and inspired by the quality of the work they are doing.

We hope you will be too.

John Hall

John Hall
Chair
London Education Partnership Awards
Judging Panel 2011







Building bridges:

cross-organisational partnership and impact

Sponsor: KPMG

BSix Sixth Form College

In partnership with Pembroke College, University of Oxford, Queen Mary's University of London, City University and the University of York.

BSix Sixth Form College was set up by the Learning and Skills Council in 2002 to raise the achievement and aspirations of young people in Hackney and the East End of London.

The Pem-Brooke partnership was launched in 2008, with BSix as the lead institution for the Raising Aspirations Programme. Prospective students from BSix go through a rigorous interview process to be selected for the Pem-Brooke Group. The group participates in university style lectures and debates, and a multi-disciplinary programme. From this cohort a smaller group is selected to attend an annual residential summer school at Pembroke College. The school aims to simulate the life of an Oxford undergraduate.

In 2010 the Pem-Brooke programme was replicated with other partner universities to ensure even more students are able to take part. The success of Raising Aspirations can be seen through the fact that three BSix graduates of the programme have been offered places to study at Oxford and Cambridge.



"We are so pleased to receive this acknowledgement for this innovative programme. Above all, it is an award for all our partners on the scheme. I want to thank all the university staff and students involved for making this award and the programme possible."

**REBEKAH HARRIS
HEAD OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
BSIX SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

Supporting journeys:

excellent professional practice in student support

Sponsor: Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

Hackney Community College (HCC)

In partnership with University of East London, London Metropolitan University, Academy of Sport (East London), Hackney Hawks Athletics Club, Newham Sixth Form College, England Basketball.

The HCC Sports Academy Programme was established in 2002 with a focus on basketball and has since extended to athletics, cricket and football. The academies offer a gateway to higher education and success in life through sport and specialist support.

Members take a mainstream course alongside their sport, and most take additional qualifications in coaching, volunteering or sport administration.

Academy members benefit from professional coaching, a schedule of competitive fixtures and tailored support including focused advice, guidance, mentoring and role model inspiration. Numbers of participants and their achievements have risen dramatically over the years with wide-ranging and high profile success in college, in sport and in life.

The model is a strong example of where specialist support, within strong partnerships, can make a real difference to participation in further education, higher education, professional sport and related careers.



“Our sports teams regularly win trophies for their success and this is a trophy of a different kind. It clearly acknowledges the extensive and innovative work of staff and partners, as well as the students in the programme.”

**IAN ASHMAN
PRINCIPAL
HACKNEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



Inspiring journeys:

excellent professional practice in curriculum support for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)



Sponsor: The Wellcome Trust

Imperial College London

In partnership with Exscitec.

The challenge was to find a mechanism for providing inspirational and aspirational lab based STEM experiences within a Higher Education environment throughout the academic year. Providing a STEM HE experience that is a genuine hands-on opportunity for students has been restricted in the main to the HE vacation period resulting in over-demand for summer programmes.

The key target groups identified were KS2/3 transition; KS3/4 (subject choice and Triple Science Support) and Post 16 enrichment and subject support. All activities support both teacher Continuing Professional Development and Public Engagement of the STEM Research community.

Championed by Professor Lord Winston and supported by Imperial College Outreach the Reach Out Lab (ROL) is a bespoke schools laboratory and has been constructed at the centre of the South Kensington campus of Imperial College. Working in partnership with STEM Outreach provider, Exscitec, it has been possible to develop and deliver a wide range of STEM activities and programmes across the calendar year.



"It was an honour to be able to collect the award on behalf of the Reach Out Lab. Hopefully we can use the award to further raise awareness of the opportunities provided through the Reach Out Lab with more schools and members of the research community of Imperial College".

ALAN WEST
DIRECTOR
REACH OUT LAB
IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Creative journeys:

excellent professional practice
in curriculum support for
arts and design



Sponsor: University of the Arts London

South West Newham Education Action Zone

In partnership with St Helen's, St Joachim's, Ranelagh, Britannia Village, Star, South Newham Education Action Zone.

South West Newham Education Action Zone (EAZ) was established to enable a group of schools in areas of deprivation, to work together to overcome barriers and raise standards. The director of the EAZ recognised the importance of schools working in smaller clusters and concentrating on specific priorities and so formed The Creative Arts Partnership.

The schools involved were either in Special Measures or the Cause for Concern category. Schools had something else in common; all were being led by head teachers in their first headships.

The heads decided to take a risk, resolving to use the arts as the conduit for raising standards in writing. They believed art, music and drama would inspire the children and challenge low aspirations. The heads met to determine objectives, success criteria and outcomes for the projects. Budgets and talents from each school were pooled and strategic planning and organisation across the partnership ensured the project was a success.



"We have embarked on a remarkable journey, all the schools in our partnership have moved from the bottom of the league tables to near the top. This award has validated our partnership and inspired us to continue to take risks to provide the best possible opportunities to our pupils and their families."

**HEADTEACHERS
CREATIVE ARTS PARTNERSHIP
NEWHAM**

Driving achievement forward: achieving successful outcomes post-16

Sponsor: London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

London South Bank University

In partnership with The City of London Corporation.

The City of London recognised that it needed to do more to support local young people to take up employment opportunities available within the city. Amongst the groups that are under-represented in the city's workforce, the most marginalised are young people leaving care. The City of London Corporation funds a range of programmes which address this issue.

The City Opportunities programme was designed to encourage care leavers to think about continuing their education and to provide a potential end goal which would help give them the incentive not to give up when the going gets tough.

This project is innovative in that it is a contracted week-long project which exclusively targets care leavers with the goal of sparking interest and signposting them into work in the city. The course was drawn up by utilising the experience of staff who had previously worked in a leaving care team, feedback from social workers, education workers and advocates of care leavers in education, and advice from care leaver mentors and co-ordinators.



“Over the last ten years we have seen the numbers of care leavers entering higher education increase from 1% to 7% in England. We were really pleased that this award recognised the significance of a project which has made a big difference to the aspirations of the young care leavers who have taken part.”

**MICHELLE DEBONO
PROJECT COORDINATOR
LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY**



Reaching out:

third sector/voluntary sector organisation of the year

Sponsor: The National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)

Refugee Therapy Centre

In partnership with UCL Union and Middlesex University Students Society.

The Refugee Therapy Centre's central purpose is to help refugees and asylum seekers to feel empowered to deal with their psychological difficulties through psychotherapy, counselling and associated treatments. They prioritise children and young families, with many of their clients being school-aged.

In the course of therapy sessions, feedback from the children indicated that they would benefit from further help regarding their school experience, and this was reinforced by refugee parents who could see the difficulties their children faced attending a new school in a new country. It was recognised that the children needed an additional source of support which offered space to raise issues about school, its culture and teaching methods. They also required help with their language skills, and understanding homework, so that they could rebuild their confidence and self-esteem and feel empowered to engage with the education opportunities available, from primary school through to further and higher education.

The Centre and its partners recruit mentors for the scheme who meet with the young people at the centre for an hour each week to offer socio-educational support.



"We are honoured to win it this year. It means a lot to us. On behalf of everyone at the RTC, I want to say thank you. This award highlights the real values of mentoring; it makes us confident about the goals and future of the projects."

**DR AIDA ALAYARIAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REFUGEE THERAPY CENTRE**



Starting the journey:

raising aspirations in primary school pupils

Sponsor: Museum of London

Falconbrook Primary School

The mantra at Falconbrook Primary school is 'No Child Left Behind'. The school has high aspirations and ambitions for their children, and despite being in one of the most deprived areas south of the river they believe that "it's not where you come from but where you plan to go that is the difference between success and failure".

In 2004 the school was second to bottom in the local league tables and at the 99th percentile nationally for mathematics. The challenge wasn't just about raising standards, it was also about the motivation to learn what was going on in primary schools as a part of the stepping stones for life achievement. Although deprivation factors are very high at Falconbrook, they don't believe it is an excuse for not achieving. They have tried to turn it into a reason for 'getting going' and making a difference.

For the last two years they have had a programme of inspirational speakers to broaden the children's horizons and make them aware of the opportunities within their grasp. Whilst these speakers came from all walks of life, they tried to deliver the same message about making opportunities happen and working hard so that 'each day counts'. Speakers have included Rani Singh, a frontline news reporter; round the world yachtswoman Tracey Edwards, and celebrity chef Levi Roots - who successfully pitched his Reggae Reggae Sauce on TV show Dragons' Den in 2007.



"If encouragement is the act of noticing the effort then winning the London Education Partnership Award was such an energy boost and our 'Raising Aspirations' programme has continued to thrive as a result of this support."

LINDA PHILLIPS
HEADTEACHER
FALCONBROOK SCHOOL





Chair's Award

London Metropolitan University & Cambridge Education Islington

In partnership with Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Language College for Girls, Highbury Fields School for Girls, Highbury Grove School, Holloway School, Islington Arts and Media School, Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Technology College for Girls, St Aloysius College, University of Massachusetts, The Dame Alice Owen Foundation.

The Upward Bound programme offers an alternative learning environment within a university setting and is modelled on an American scheme that supports participants in preparation for college entrance. The objective was to raise aspirations and attainment of KS4 students from Islington state schools who have been predicted C/D grades at GCSE. Upward Bound delivers high quality teaching and learning opportunities to ensure that the students complete secondary school with a minimum of 5 GCSE A-C grades.

A study week at The University of Massachusetts, Boston for the most committed Upward Bound students, is often a life changing experience for those involved. One past student who attended the study week in 2008 has recently gained a full scholarship to an American university in Kansas.

The intervention has seen 100% of all students achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grade A-C and overall better results on average than the rest of the borough.



"The staff and students at Upward Bound were delighted to win the chairs award, having our work and the students achievements recognised and acknowledged in this way is particularly encouraging and motivating. This award is also beneficial in helping to raise the profile of the program."

MAXINE BUNTING-THOMAS
PROJECT OFFICER
UPWARD BOUND

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and social research
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Challenge**
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