



Beyond our Gates

A Review of GSAL's Outreach Work



THE GRAMMAR
SCHOOL AT LEEDS
Be Inspired

Introduction

At GSAL, we have always known the importance of looking beyond our own gates. When William Sheafield founded Leeds Grammar School in 1552, he did so to improve the lives of young people in the city; then, in 1876, Leeds Girls' High School was created to provide poor girls with access to a quality education.

Since the schools merged in 2008, GSAL has continued to be guided by this sense of civic responsibility and our belief in the transformative power of education. We have utilised our expertise and facilities to provide meaningful opportunities to as many young people in the region as possible. In doing this, we have been informed by the needs of the wider community.

The school's outreach work is also undertaken in the knowledge that it is mutually beneficial. The school is enriched when we actively engage with others; our future is brighter when our region thrives.

We are proud to work with a broad range of partners to ensure our area is a place where young people flourish.

We have focused this review on a handful of case studies, which highlight the variety of our outreach work. By following this approach, we hope to celebrate achievements and set out how GSAL can best continue to make a positive contribution to Leeds and the wider Yorkshire region.

Sue Woodroffe, Principal



Partnerships

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

GSAL has a long-standing partnership with Mount St Mary's (MSM), a large secondary comprehensive school in Leeds. MSM's student body, 51% of whom are designated disadvantaged, represents 45 nationalities and speaks 49 languages.

Together, the schools share experiences and aspirations. As part of this open exchange, MSM staff and students attend guest lectures and GCSE preparation sessions hosted by GSAL.

The schools also work together as part of the **Young Scholars Network**, a city-wide initiative that supports academically talented Year 10 pupils. MSM students have the opportunity to apply for and secure bursary places at GSAL's Sixth Form.

MSM's leadership report that the partnership has helped raise their students' aspirations, with the bursary places significantly enhancing academic and life chances.

"The partnership has opened hearts, minds and doors whilst providing the opportunity to share who we are from a community perspective."

Mark Cooper, Headteacher, Mount St Mary's

Otley Science Festival



Through our partnership with Otley Science Festival, the school supports this popular community project, which brings engaging science speakers and events to the region.

Alongside providing sponsorship, GSAL staff and pupils run an interactive stall at the festival's annual fair. By sharing our expertise, we not only help enthuse children about science, but our students gain valuable experience in engaging with the public.

In 2020, GSAL stepped into the breach and hosted Marty Jopson's much-anticipated science show, allowing it to be broadcast live to local primary schools during Covid restrictions. This innovation opened the event to an even larger audience.

With GSAL's support, there are plans to deliver a new online science show.

"It has been a fantastic opportunity to work with GSAL. With their help we have managed to engage many more of the local children, and general public, than we have done previously."

Marty Jopson, Science Broadcaster and Otley Science Festival Co-Founder

Child Friendly Leeds

Over the last five years, GSAL has worked with Child Friendly Leeds (CFL) with the shared ambition of making our city the best place in the UK for young people to live and grow up.

Together, we have developed new and dynamic opportunities for children, with a particular focus on those from disadvantaged backgrounds. For example, GSAL has helped fund and host drama workshops for children in care, and the school has sponsored foster family day trips and healthy holidays schemes.

“The team at GSAL are always supportive and flexible with what they offer, which allows us to work in partnership to support those harder to reach communities.”

Emma Southam, Engagement and Participation Officer, Child Friendly Leeds

Volunteering



From an early age, our pupils are taught the value of contributing to society, and many of our young people volunteer with organisations across the region.

For example, GSAL has established a partnership with **Parklands Primary School** in Leeds. Our Sixth Form students work with their Year 6 pupils to raise aspirations and develop literacy and numeracy skills.

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, GSAL has also created a connection with **Oxfam**. By volunteering in their charity shops, our students play a role in tackling poverty and learn about responsibility, teamwork and basic business principles.

Oxfam reports many students continue to volunteer way beyond the prescribed Duke of Edinburgh Award requirements.

“It is wonderful to have students join our team. They provide a fresh pair of eyes and make valuable suggestions. They learn about Oxfam, and we learn about GSAL.”

Louisa Allen, Manager, Oxfam Wetherby Shop

Learning together

“The excellent level of organisation and vision which GSAL brings to the T&L conference marks it out. The investment has ensured year on year that we have enjoyed keynote addresses from very high calibre speakers - they remain some of the best talks on education I have ever heard. This conference is a gem.”

Jenny Webb, teacher, school leader, author and speaker

We recognise that sharing knowledge and expertise among educators is one of the most effective ways to benefit a wide range of children and young people.

It is with this in mind that GSAL organises two large annual conferences. Our **Teaching and Learning (T&L) Conference** is attended by over 200 primary and secondary school teachers from across the country. The **GSAL Futures Conference** is an inspirational careers conference open to secondary school pupils across Leeds

These conferences allow information and best practice sharing and have also resulted in lasting collaborations between schools. Our practical and collaborative approach is designed to affect real change in the classroom and impact positively on the progress of students.

Creating opportunities

We currently invest over £1m per annum in providing means-tested bursaries to over 120 students from across Leeds.

In doing so, we provide our bursary students with a high-quality education and access to a range of enriching co-curricular activities, allowing them to pursue their passions and expand their interests. Our sixth form provision – with its excellent track record in helping students secure places at Russell Group universities – also helps equip these students for a bright, fulfilling future. In return, the school benefits from having a diverse student body that is united by its love of learning.

“The bursary gave me the opportunity to pursue the dreams that seemed far away due to my family’s financial circumstances.”

Former bursary student who was funded by The Emerald Foundation and is currently studying mechanical engineering at Imperial College, London

These case studies provide a snapshot of some of the work we do beyond our gates. In addition to these valuable partnerships and projects, we are proud that GSAL is involved in an array of other activities that support children and young people across the Leeds city region.

We want to thank all of our supporters, donors and partners; without their generosity, we would not be able to provide these opportunities. We are particularly grateful to the following institutions and individuals for their exceptional contribution:

Our supporters and partners:

- » Child Friendly Leeds
- » Leeds Community Foundation
- » Otley Science Festival
- » Ilkley Literature Festival
- » Harrogate Theatre
- » Leeds City Museum
- » LEEDS2023
- » MathsCity
- » MILIM Festival
- » West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
- » White Rose Alliance
- » Yorkshire Schools Alliance
- » Leeds Learning Partnership
- » LEAP (Leeds Enterprise and Advisory Programme)
- » BookMark reading charity
- » Malawi Kamuzu Academy
- » Oxfam
- » The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- » Parklands Primary School
- » Manor Wood Primary School
- » Seacroft Grange Primary School
- » Allerton Church of England Primary School
- » White Rose Academy Trust
- » Mount St Mary's Catholic High School
- » Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Centre, Leeds Jewish Welfare Board
- » Headingley Hall Care Home
- » Moor Allerton Elderly Care

Major benefactors:

- » Adrian Binks
- » Brian Cook
- » Michael Crystal QC
- » Peter Crystal
- » The Emerald Foundation
- » Ken Hodcroft
- » Parklane Foundation
- » Robin Mischeff Charitable Trust
- » Marilyn Stowe
- » Straight Foundation
- » Garry and Anne Wilson
- » John Woodward
- » Dee, Edward and Jacob Ziff

People who left us a gift in their will:

- » Basil A A Battle
- » Richard Deeble
- » Derek Fry
- » Lucy Harland
- » Stanley Metcalfe
- » Irene Milner
- » Ruth Monahan
- » Joan Nevison
- » William Peberdy
- » Tom Robinson
- » Robert M Tebb
- » John Wilkinson



If you would like to make a gift to support our work, please scan this QR code or contact us at 0113 228 5114 or alumni@gsal.org.uk

In the last five years GSAL has made a huge impact in the community. Here are some of the results:

Money raised for charity by pupils

£207,681



Pupils involved in volunteering

1551

Means-tested bursaries awarded worth

£6,605,541



No. of state schools who have directly benefited

130

No. of state pupils who have directly benefited

2,000



According to research undertaken by the Independent School Council (ISC), we contribute over £20m to the local economy and our activities support over 470 jobs in the Leeds area.