



## BROADGREEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

### HOW STUDY SUPPORT HAS CHANGED THE CURRICULUM

**JULY 2010**

<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The Duke of Edinburgh programme has been introduced by Merseyside Police Safer School's Officer to work with targeted pupils who are disaffected from school and learning to increase self esteem and better working relationships between school staff and the pupils. The aim was to improve attendance and progress of these pupils in school.</p> <p>For some families it was also aimed at breaking down barriers of the police force and increasing respect for the Police Force.</p>	
<p><b>Target Group / Key Stage</b> Initially Key Stage 4 pupils at risk of exclusion due to behaviour issues and Looked After Children.</p>	<p><b>FSM 46.3% EAL 9.3% SEN 31.4 %</b> Total on Roll = 1205 (including 163 in the sixth form)</p>
<p><b>Local Authority</b> Liverpool City Council</p>	<p><b>School /Centre</b> Broadgreen International School</p>
<p><b>Context of school</b></p> <p>Broadgreen is a mixed, foundation secondary school for pupils aged 11-18. The school is a part of the Fiveways Trust which is a partnership between us, Childwall Secondary school, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool Hope University and Liverpool Primary Care Trust. Our sixth form is offered as a collaborative between us, Childwall and King David secondary schools to broaden the offer of available courses.</p> <p>We are a larger than average urban school in which a very high proportion of students is known to be eligible for free school meals. Approximately one in three students have special educational needs and/or disabilities; this is well above the national average. The proportion of students with a statement of special educational needs is also high because our school is a resource-based centre for deaf and physically disabled students who come to the school from a wide area across Liverpool and beyond.</p> <p>Our school has held specialist technology status since 2002. We have also gained the following awards: Established QiSS; Inclusion Charter Mark; Healthy Schools Award; International Schools Award; Basic Skills Quality Mark; ICT Mark; Sportsmark; and Investors in People status.</p> <p>In our latest Section 5 inspection (19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> May 2010) the overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be satisfactory and the capacity for sustained improvement was judged as good. The extent to which students contribute to the school and wider community is judged as outstanding. The effectiveness with which we promote community cohesion is also judged as outstanding.</p>	

### **What was it like before the work and why was the work undertaken?**

There were no outdoor pursuits clubs on offer for Study Support prior to the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We did not target 'at risk' pupils with Study Support activities. There was a need to engage parents of 'at risk' pupils with the vision and aims of the school.

Broadgreen gained a police officer to work with disaffected pupils through the Safer School's Partnership. He had previously been involved with delivering Duke of Edinburgh awards under the Merseyside Police Authority licence. The decision was taken to try and motivate disaffected pupils through the programme.

A small number of activities including walking were set up during school time and after school to get the pupils involved and then a practice walk and weekend expedition was undertaken.

Also, it filled the gap in the Study Support programme for outdoor pursuits.

### **What did you plan to do?**

Merseyside Police and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award to work together in an almost unique project, in collaboration with Broadgreen International School, to deliver the Award. The Award started in Broadgreen in September 2005, after PC Phil Seddon was seconded here to support a small group of disengaged and disadvantaged students. Since then the Award has grown immensely. In its first year 12 students achieved their Bronze Award.

The School Improvement Plan had a strategy embedded within it which included employing a Safer School's Police Officer to help engage some 'at risk' of exclusion pupils and their families with attending school and raising their academic achievement. He had previous experience of working with excluded and hard to reach pupils.

We planned to use Merseyside Police's licence for operating the Duke of Edinburgh Award to help engage the selected 'at risk' pupils, as a result of engaging these pupils it was hoped that attendance and therefore attainment of these pupils would also improve. By working directly with police officers it was hoped that respect for authority would also improve and significant barriers would be broken down.



## **What has been learnt?**

There were improvements all round for selected pupils, some more than others. A number of pupils improved their behaviour in school and raised their academic achievements, evident from teacher's comments. For one pupil the Award improved her life chances so much that through her skill learnt she took up dragon boat racing and represented GB in Australia and Italy.

Over 200 pupils have now received a Bronze or Silver Award and in March 2009 one former pupil was presented with his Gold Award by the Chief Constable, Bernard Hogan Howe, at the Annual Awards Ceremony held at the school. He was also invited to attend a Royal reception at St James Palace in the Autumn where he was presented with his certificate.

We have so many pupils receiving awards that a separate awards evening is annually held to award Duke of Edinburgh certificates in school and is a high profile event in the school calendar.

This collaboration continues to be recognised at a national level, last year by HRH the Earl of Wessex and with Peter Westgarth, CEO of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, who attended this year's ceremony. Constable Seddon also received an Award on behalf of the DofE team at Broadgreen, presented by Merseyside Police in recognition of their achievements in providing positive diversionary activities for youngsters across the community. Furthermore, because of the impact that the DofE Award has had, Broadgreen now offers a BTEC programme in Outdoor Education from September 2009, which includes DofE Award and other outdoor activities.

Currently we have 102 pupils participating in Bronze, 20 Silver and 8 Gold Award.

We have had spin off clubs from the Duke of Edinburgh including a club in which pupils mended stolen and dumped bikes which were then distributed by the police to primary schools and other organisations for running cycling proficiency clubs. Many pupils volunteer to peer mentors in other clubs such as cookery club of FAST to earn their service hours for the Award.

The Award is a totally Personalised Learning Programme in which pupils independently choose a skill and a service in addition to their expeditions. We have had pupils pass their driving test through to learning belly dancing. We have had Physically disabled pupils complete the award using a canal boat exploration in place of the expedition and deaf pupils complete the Award with the assistance of a volunteer communicator from our school. One of our deaf pupils made a resource which he used for an after school club in which he taught hearing pupils BSL. His resource is currently being considered by the international Duke of Edinburgh organisation to receive backing by business to be published for other organisations to use.

Broadgreen TV our Journalism club has enjoyed interviewing D of E pupils to make a short film for assemblies.

School staff are as keen as the pupils to get involved particularly in the expeditions. Many staff have received Professional Development through it:

Our police officer has completed Bronze and Silver Assessor's course.

Six school staff are trained as D of E Award Leader's

Eight staff have received BELA awards

One member of staff has completed Mountain leader, Single Pitch Training and Mountain Bike instructor's award and now Leads Outdoor education BTEC.

There is currently a pool in excess of twenty staff volunteering for expedition weekends.

Funding for the award has come from many sources including the Police Jubilee fund, The National Lottery and Liverpool Deaf Centre.



#### **Next steps?**

- We are continuing similar projects but with pupils lower down the school.
- Continue staff training and increase body of staff involved.
- Six pupils have been chosen from Year 7, 8 and 9 by their Head's of Year who have poor self esteem or are disaffected they are being taken climbing and canoeing after school with funding from the Youth Service in the KIP project.
- Increase uptake of BTEC Outdoor pursuit's qualification.

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