



Southwark Schools
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP



STATE AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL STUDENTS WORKING TOGETHER IN SOUTHWARK

SSLP

Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership 2016-17

WWW.SSLP.EDUCATION

Thirteen Years of the SSLP

A Welcome from the Directors

We hope you enjoy this review of over 60 SSLP activities from last year. Highlights for us included God & the Big Bang (page 5) and SSLP Glee (page 6) plus an increased number of joint CPD sessions for our teachers (page 2). We hope reading this review of 2016-17 will inspire you to become even more involved with our programme in 2017-18.

We look forward to talking to the Heads and Link teachers of all our schools about what you and the pupils most want from SSLP in the future and about how our work can make the greatest impact on the greatest number of the young people of the borough.

Personally, we have two aspirations for 2017-18. Firstly, to actively encourage each of our growing number of schools to hold at least one SSLP event during the course of the year, for either students or teachers. Secondly, we hope to see the introduction of a student leadership body who will play a part in directing our activities.

Thank you for your tremendous support.

Catherine May and Joe Spence

SSLP History

The Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership (SSLP) arose from a Department of Education London Challenge project for cross-sector working, aimed at raising levels of students' engagement and achievements and providing professional development for staff. It was set up in October 2003 by two Directors, Dr Irene Bishop CBE, then Head of St Saviour's & St Olave's CofE School and Marion Gibbs CBE, then Head of James Allen's Girls' School.

The leadership of our partnership entered a new phase in 2015-16 with Grainne Grabowski (Principal at St Michael's Catholic College) and Dr Joseph Spence (Master at Dulwich College) being appointed as the new Co-Directors.

This year we have appointed a part-time coordinator to add a shared resource.

Follow the SSLP on Twitter
@SSLP_Southwark

email:
admin@SSLP.education

SSLP Membership

The following ten schools (seven maintained, three independent) participated in our partnership during 2016-17: Alleyn's School, ARK Globe Academy, The Charter School, City Heights E-ACT Academy, The City of London Academy (CoLA), Dulwich College, James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS), Kingsdale School, St Michael's Catholic College, St Saviour's & St Olave's CE School (SSSO).

Grainne Grabowski

A special thanks to Grainne Grabowski who resigned her position as SSLP Co-director at the end of the year after two successful years in the position. Grainne is moving on from her position at St Michael's Catholic College.



Dr Joe Spence and Grainne Grabowski

SSLP: Teachers

We provided 10 opportunities for our teachers to come together over the year. They had opportunities to learn together, share best practice and to exchange ideas.

-  Annual SSLP Launch
-  AQA GCSE English
-  Geography CPD 1
-  Spanish A Level INSET
-  Geography CPD 2
-  MFL Conference
-  A Morning of Hockey
-  EPQ Discussion
-  NQT Social Evening
-  Tennis Course

Annual SSLP Launch

As the Autumn term got underway, teachers from across the partnership gathered together at James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS) to reflect on last year's successes and to energise a programme of activities for 2016/17. MP Helen Hayes was the guest of honour speaking about her aspirations for education in the borough both from the perspective of an MP and as a mother. Teachers then broke into smaller, subject-based groups to their own aspirations.

AQA GCSE English

A joint workshop for English Teachers hosted at Charter School where the trainer addressed issues including; preparing students to answer the Language papers, tips for stretching the most able, examples of marked work for Literature and Language.

Geography CPD 1

This year's first Geography SSLP event for teachers was held at Alleyn's School. The teachers took part in ArcGIS CPD presented by one of the Alleyn's teachers, Stuart Turner. The teachers worked through a couple of data types, mapping travel distance from school and crime statistics. Loads of discussion over how to incorporate this into lessons and general approaches to teaching was had.



Teachers exploring ideas together during a Break-Out session at the annual SSLP Launch 2016.

Spanish A Level INSET

Teachers of Spanish attended a shared training at Dulwich College. A trainer from AQA delivered an INSET on the new Spanish A level. We made the agenda and papers available on our website for information.

Geography CPD 2

Alleyn's School also organised the second Geography CPD event. Any geography teachers who teach either of the GCSE Edexcel courses were invited to attend as the Principal Examiner at Edexcel gave some training on the new GCSE grading systems.

MFL Conference

Having languages as a specialism it was apt for City Heights E-ACT Academy to run an MFL Conference hosted by Dulwich College. Aimed at both secondary and primary school teachers, the day was opened by MP Helen Hayes and Acting Principle of City Heights Elroy Cahill. Dr Rachel Hawkes delivered the keynote talk as well as running a workshop on the new GCSE examination. There were a large number of workshops so delegates found sessions appropriate to their teaching.

A Morning of Hockey

Alleyn's School welcomed PE teachers from across the SSLP to "A Morning of Hockey". The objective of the morning was to outline the core fundamental attacking and defensive skills that form the foundation for success in hockey and involved video analysis

and practical work, where attendees were expected to "have a go".

EPQ Discussion

Six schools attended the EPQ seminar at JAGS. The session first explained how the EPQ was organised at JAGS and thereafter, everyone contributed to the discussion.

NQT Social Evening

This event was designed to allow newly qualified teachers (NQTs) to meet others from neighbouring Southwark schools. It provided a chance to discuss the highs and the lows, the surprises and the mundane of the first two terms as a teacher. And all without the presence of senior management.

Tennis Course

PE Teachers from across SSLP schools were invited to join teachers from Alleyn's for a tennis course at the Edward Alleyn Club. The three-hour Secondary Schools Tennis Teacher Training Course was developed to provide teachers with the confidence and knowledge to deliver traditional and modified versions of the sport, such as Mini Tennis for teenagers and Cardio Tennis.

SSLP: Humanities

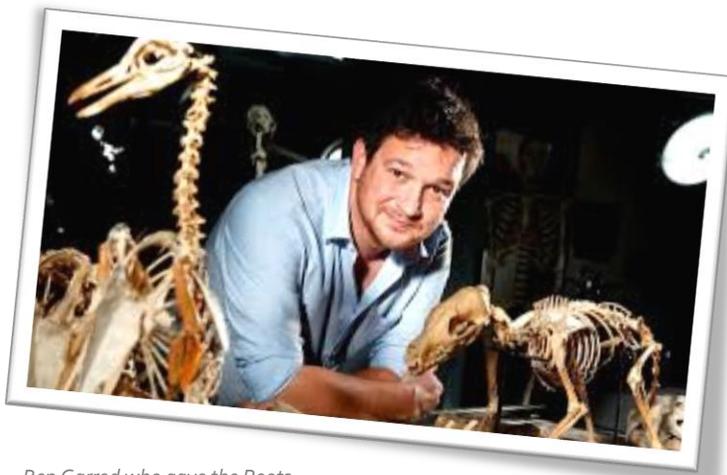
Over the course of the three academic terms there were nine opportunities open for students from all schools to explore different topics of Geographical and Historical interest.

-  Roots and Shoots
-  Geographical Imagination
-  Illegal Wildlife Trade
-  Conservation Optimism Summit
-  Magna Carta to Brexit
-  Changing Role of Gender
-  Nationalism & Security
-  Managing Peace

Geography

Roots and Shoots

Following the inaugural Roots & Shoots Lecture with Jane Goodall DBE last year, JAGS invited Ben Garrod to talk about his work with Great Apes and the Jane Goodall Institute. As well as being an evolutionary biologist and great ape conservationist, Ben Garrod regularly presents and appears on TV and radio. This was a charity event with all proceeds going to the Jane Goodall Institute.



Ben Garrod who gave the Roots and Shoots Lecture

Conservation Optimism Summit

The University of Oxford's Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science (ICCS), Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, organised a ground-breaking summit.

Geographical Imagination

Geography students were treated to an evening of discussion by Professor David Gilbert from Royal Holloway, University of London. Tackling the challenging question of defining "What is Geography?", he introduced what he considered to be the five key components of the discipline, before concluding that geography is better defined as a series of questions regarding the geographical imagination.

Illegal Wildlife Trade

Prof. E.J. Milner-Gulland gave an interesting talk on the illegal wildlife trade to A level biologists and geographers. She spoke about the ivory trade and was excellent at conveying the complexities of what is a very emotive subject.

The Partnership was able to secure 15 places for SSLP A Level students, in return for stewardship duties (usually £110). This was particularly interesting for budding Biologists, potential journalists and other students passionate about global conservation.

History

Magna Carta to Brexit

Dulwich College welcomed Dr David Starkey to give a talk on political crises. Dr Starkey gave a comprehensive examination of the events surrounding the creation of Magna Carta in 1215, as well as making comparisons with the current political situation in the UK.

Changing Role of Gender

The first of two talks organised by the JAGS History department invited students from across the SSLP to listen to Dr Hester Vaizey discussing the Changing Role of Gender in the 20th century.

Nationalism and Security

In the second of the JAGS History talks SSLP students listened to Dr James Malcolm, from Coventry University, exploring the themes of Nationalism and Security.

Managing Peace

Regent's University London and the Tutu Foundation UK hosted the second International Peace Summit 2017: The Aftermath of Conflict - Managing the Peace.

SSLP: Maths

Alex Bellos: Mathematics Talk

Alex Bellos, the Guardian newspaper puzzle columnist and perhaps the highest profile popular Mathematics author in the UK came to speak to A Level Further Mathematicians. He covered a multitude of topics including the psychology of favourite numbers, the Sieve of Eratosthenes, cellular automata and some puzzles from his recently released book of problems.



Alex Bellos book signing

SSLP: Communication

Students were able to access a range of activities and support to help inspire their communication in the modern world – English, Modern Foreign Languages and Computer programming.

-  Dulwich Literary Festival
-  JAGS Literary Festival
-  Why We Should Read Dickens
-  Chinese Business Day
-  Heroes of Our Time
-  International Space Race
-  Sci-Lang Festival
-  Spanish Interns
-  PyGame

English

Dulwich Literary Festival

The 2016 festival took its theme from the Anthony Trollope novel *The Way We Live Now*. Tickets started at just £5 and a 15% discount code was available to SSLP. The festival featured some of UK's best-known names in politics, fiction, poetry and history on the adult programme, and had a series of children's events to entertain and delight.

JAGS Literary Festival

A day long celebration of the written and spoken word aimed at Senior School pupils, finished with a special one-off evening performance by Roger McGough and his band LiTTLe MACHiNe. All events were open to students from SSLP schools.

Why We Should Read Dickens

JAGS welcomed year 12 and 13 students from across the SSLP partnership to join an afternoon with Dr Tony Williams discussing why we should read the work of Charles Dickens. It was an enjoyable session for any student with an interest in English Literature.

Modern Foreign Languages

Chinese Business Day

Just short of 50 Year 10 fine business minds came together to compete in the SSLP Chinese Business Day at Dulwich College.

Trying to fix the prices of airline tickets may not be the most ethical of activities, but it did help pupils see how markets work in the real world. The 11 teams could only decide whether to increase advertising budgets or to drop budgets if they placed their bids in Chinese. Much of the day was based on mobile phones, the treasure hunt, learning Chinese and.... Golden Balls!

Heroes of Our Time

A special outreach event for secondary school students in Years 11 and 12 allowed students to study Russian and join the Cambridge University Department of Slavonic Studies for a day.

International Space Race

This was a challenge for Year 9 students to build a water powered rocket that would achieve the longest flight in competition with other SSLP schools and Dulwich schools around the world. The challenge could be completed in their own time as the flight was recorded on video. The rocket's flight accounted for 80% of the marks. The remaining 20% of marks were awarded for the commentary and an A3 poster explaining the design of the rocket, both of which were conducted in a foreign language.



Students at the Sci-Lang Festival following Spanish instructions to make a hot air balloon.

Sci-Lang Festival

The brief was to explain something of scientific interest to others using French or Spanish. Language had to be simple, effective and unequivocal. In the afternoon mixed teams were given Spanish and French guidance on building a hot air balloon. Guest stars included Eddie the Voice Activated Robot and Owen Reid, a ventriloquist.

Spanish Interns

Five Spanish interns spent 12 weeks helping in Modern Foreign Language departments and elsewhere. They were all completing a Masters in secondary Education and this

internship formed part of their training. They were hosted for up to 17.5 hours each week at three schools and offered one day a week at another SSLP school, in return for nothing more than the reimbursement of travel costs.

ICT

PyGame

SSLP computing students met at Dulwich College for a PyGame workshop. PyGame is a python programming environment which allows students to animate objects. Pupils had an exciting day programming and looking at how PyGame could be used to produce A Level Computer Studies' projects. A number of 6th form students decided to use PyGame for their A Level projects.



Students learning to code in Python

SSLP: Informal Contact

Through informal contact between SSLP teachers at all levels there are many professional development opportunities. These are too numerous to document but the discussions are clearly related to real life in the classroom in Southwark. Whether they meet to discuss professional and pedagogical topics and visit each other's classrooms or bring groups of students together, SSLP teachers certainly have much in common and much to share.

SSLP: Science

Young minds were stretched with six different Science-related opportunities during the course of 2016-17.

-  God and the Big Bang
-  Synthetic Biology
-  Medical Degree Information
-  CERN Particle School
-  A Brief History of Everyone
-  CREST Awards

God and the Big Bang

The first of two flag-ship SSLP events, God and the Big Bang, gives GCSE and A level students an exciting opportunity to discover, discuss and debate the compatibility of science and faith.

Hosted at St Saviour's and St Olave's, students gathered for a Keynote talk from Professor John Bryant who has spent much of his career investigating DNA and genes, in relation to his faith and science.

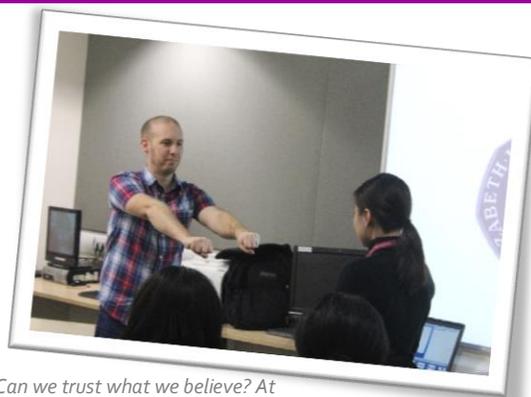
Splitting in to three workshop groups we met Dr Matt Pritchard, an award-winning magician, comedian and science communicator. Through magician's tricks he made us question how we can trust what we believe if seeing isn't proof. He suggested that "science is a map that helps you find your way around the world."

Cara Daneel has a Marine Biology and Oceanography degree and has worked in conservation and education in a variety of countries. She talked about her life with God and turtles and made us think about how all creation can praise God by its existence.

The third workshop was all about questions. Ross Mackie challenged us to ask questions and not to look only for answers.

The day concluded with a Q&A session where all students could ask the questions that the previous sessions had provoked.

*"It was very interesting and made me think in various different ways. I was constantly questioning my own views on the subjects."
(Dulwich College student)*



Can we trust what we believe? At God and the Big Bang

Synthetic Biology

Open to all SSLP science teachers and students, St Saviour's and St Olave's school were joined by other SSLP schools to listen to guest lecturer Dr Blout from Imperial College presenting a talk on Synthetic biology.

The talk was about building machines out of DNA and the practical applications of them. There was an introduction to the field with examples of some of the things people have already designed and built. Then we heard about the work St Saviour's and St Olave's are doing in their lab as part of an international team building the world's first synthetic eukaryotic genome.

Medical Degree Information

St Michael's Catholic College opened their doors for their information event focusing on medical degrees. A team from Leicester University Admissions Department was organised to come and present to science-oriented Year 10 students (in preparation for their A level choices) and Year 12 bio-chem students (who would soon be applying to medicine and related degrees).

CERN Particle School

The aim of the Particle School is to give future Physicists exposure to the life of a researcher at CERN. The visit was for four nights in Geneva, leaving on Monday 21st August and returning on Friday 25th August 2017. There were a total of twelve available places (plus two supervisors) from the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership, with a further six places offered to the King Edward schools in Birmingham (plus one supervisor), making eighteen students in total. Places were offered based on an essay competition, written by students, from a set list of titles selected by Professor Bowcock.

A Brief History of Everyone

Alleyn's were delighted to welcome KS4 and KS5 pupils from SSLP member schools to this fascinating and engaging science event led by Dr Adam Rutherford (BBC 'Inside Science').

CREST Awards

From September 2017 the SSLP will be launching CREST as an inter-school society, through which students will form their own research groups based on common interests and aims.

Meanwhile, Dulwich College's inaugural CREST Awards Ceremony presented to an audience of parents, mentors (from industry and higher education) and staff. Year 13 pupils gave summaries of their research projects that were designed, carried out and analysed in a chosen area of Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths and which represented over 70 hours of independent work. Each group produced a final report approaching undergraduate standard.

The theme of the evening was collaboration. We celebrated the pupils' achievements with the help of their mentors and shared our vision for developing the CREST research programme with our partnership schools.



Professor John Bryant at God and the Big Bang

SSLP: Creative Arts

The SSLP is an innovative project, leading the way for inter-school partnerships and that creativity is visible within our student body too.

-  Glee Day
-  Frith Piano Quartet
-  Big Band Jazz Day
-  Private Viewings
-  Creative Dimensions

Music

Glee Day

The second of the SSLP flag-ship events in 2016-17 was a musical extravaganza of a day!

Featuring pupils from five schools across the partnership, Year 7 and 8 pupils with varying levels of experience joined Dan Ludford Thomas (Head of Singing at Dulwich College) and Pete Mitchell (Absolute Radio Presenter) for a rousing Glee Day.

This event was a fun and exhilarating way for lower school pupils to engage with the SSLP. Glee was jointly arranged by Dulwich College and Kingsdale School, where the celebration of the human voice benefited from Kingsdale's excellent facilities.

Students worked with singing coaches Dan and Pete and their guest musician before putting on a performance at the end of the afternoon. The students performed excellent versions of Hold Back The River, by James Bay; Roar, by Katy Perry and Uptown Funk, by Mark Ronson.

Frith Piano Quartet

The SSLP was able to offer discounted tickets to part of Alley's International Concert Series. Formed in 2001, the Frith Piano Quartet have played at many of the major UK Festivals, at leading chamber music venues, including London's Wigmore Hall, and have featured on BBC Radio 3. They have given several first performances of newly commissioned works, but their

programme for this concert featured two of the most popular works for the piano quartet medium by Mozart and Schumann, alongside the impetuous virtuosity of Richard Strauss.

Big Band Jazz Day

Supported by the National Youth Jazz Orchestra rhythm section and led by Mark Armstrong, Artistic Director of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Professor at the Royal College of Music, SSLP students became the SSLP Big Band for the day.

They worked initially by ear, honing their skills: learning how to play 'in the groove', how jazz harmony works, how voicings work in a Big Band and improving their improvisation, all the while putting together a version of 'The Blues Walk'. In later sessions, the group moved on to notated music (Lil' Darlin' and Autumn Leaves) to apply their new skills to reading.

A short concert was enjoyed by parents, staff and siblings: the sheer energy produced by the Band never dipped; the enthusiasm and passion of the students was clear and there was some very fine playing, both solo and ensemble.

Art



Year 7 & 8 students enjoying Glee

Private Viewings

No less than six Private Viewings were organised to display works of art produced by boys at Dulwich College. Their peers from across the SSLP were invited to view their inspiring exhibitions with titles including "In Transit", "Other Nature", "Going Nowhere", "De-Composition", "Thinking Allowed", and "Thumbs Up".

Creative Dimensions

FREE courses were available to students aged between 14 & 18 with aspirations to pursue further study or a career in the creative industries. Students could choose between chocolate working, gilding and marquetry at Buckingham Palace, Gilding and Verre Églomisé at City & Guilds of London Art School or Jewellery Making at The Goldsmiths' Centre.



*For one day only
the SSLP Bia Band!*

SSLP: Active

Stuart Horne & Outward Bound Canada

The Stuart Horne Foundation offered four full bursaries to pupils from any SSLP school who had demonstrable leadership abilities that would be nurtured and developed on a 17-21 day wilderness adventure in Canada. If students would not normally have the resources or opportunity to take advantage of such an opportunity then they were eligible to apply.

Identified students were given the SSLP 2017 Stuart Horne Bursary Application form to complete and submit to their school. Each school considered the applications they receive and submitted the one(s) they felt were the strongest candidates for one of the four bursary spots. A cross-school working group then considered the applications and interviewed some of the candidates. This working group then selected the four to be offered bursary slots.

Our students enjoyed four separate trips: sea kayaking off the West Coast of Canada, hiking in the Rocky Mountains, discovering Northern Ontario, and exploring the Bay of Fundy.

SSLP: Big Society

Multiple schools working together in partnership offers far greater opportunities for those older students studying non-core subjects such as Philosophy and Politics. We were able to offer seven such occasions this year.

-  Philosophy Conference
-  Chaplaincy Lecture
-  Big Ideas for Bright Minds
-  Parliamentary Debate
-  Melanie Dawes
-  Marxism – Old and New
-  Michael Portillo

Philosophy

Philosophy Conference

The JAGS Philosophy Conference was a one-day event for sixth-form students, both those studying philosophy at A Level or Pre U, and students considering philosophy (or courses including philosophy) at university. The day comprised four talks and Q&A sessions with visiting academic speakers, on topics which both reinforce and go beyond the A Level syllabus; this year we had sessions on the nature of belief, 'God and the meanings of life', personal identity and immortality, and 'fictional time'.

Chaplaincy Lecture

Alley's School reserved 30 places for SSLP school students and teachers at this event.

Michael Ramsden, International Director for RZIM and joint Director of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, spoke movingly about the subject of suffering within the context of the love of God. The deep pain and confusion of suffering were acknowledged as he tracked through the issue of humanity's freewill and capacity to cause harm. He then moved to the wider issue of living in a world where death is ever-present, part of the physical way that the world works. He talked about the love of God being expressed in the life, suffering and hope of Christ.

Big Ideas for Bright Minds

Firm Foundations: An Introduction to Thinking Deeply with Oxford University Masterclass for students.

Everybody is interested in the big questions but few are given the foundational principles for thinking deeply. This event introduced foundations of philosophy to improve evaluation skills and performance across all subject areas.

Whilst at times a heated discussion, we managed to keep it 'on the rails' and are very grateful for Mr. Portillo for addressing us all.

(SSLP Student host at M. Portillo event)

Politics

Melanie Dawes – An Insider's View of Central Politics

Politics students from SSLP member schools joined together at JAGS to welcome Melanie Dawes, Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities and Local Government. This was an engaging hour for all students with an interest in Government.

Marxism – Old and New

This was a fantastic opportunity for students of politics at SSLP schools to learn about Marxism. Dr Alex Sutton from the University of Chichester lead a lecture of Marxism - Old and New at JAGS. The event was open to any interested teachers and pupils.

Michael Portillo

Michael Portillo, a former politician in the governments of both Margret Thatcher and later John Major, spoke to SSLP students with an interest in politics and current affairs and in gaining an insight from a politician who had been at the very centre of decision making for numerous years.

We were taken through a nuanced discussion on the potential ramifications of the Brexit vote, the implications of the Italian referendum, what Trump's election meant for global politics and even questioning a potential change in the British ambassador to Washington (Nigel Farage being amongst those suggested).

SSLP: Careers

Across the partnership there were plenty of opportunities for SSLP students to explore their future careers.

-  Technology
-  Studying Medicine
-  University Home & Abroad

Technology

Students with an interest in pursuing careers in Architecture, Planning or the Built Environment were invited to network with industry experts and professionals.

Studying Medicine

Students from SSLP schools interested in applying to study medicine had three opportunities to explore the possibility. There was a Medic Applicant information session at JAGS, and another at St Michael's Catholic College and a Careers Carousel at the Barber Surgeons Hall in the City of London, which afforded students the

opportunity to ask leading experienced medical practitioners from various disciplines about the opportunities in the field of medicine.

University Home & Abroad

Several of the schools held University Open Days where students could meet and ask questions of representatives from leading universities in the UK, Holland, the USA, Hong Kong and Australia. King's College London organised a new event for estranged and care experienced students who would like to apply to a HE institution in the near future.

Evaluation & Annual Reports

In early 2006 we commissioned an Evaluative Report of our first three years. It was written by Dr Jan McKenley and launched by the then Secretary of State, Mr Alan Johnson, at our annual celebratory meeting in October 2006. It was accompanied by a DVD entitled 'Nine Schools, One Purpose' which centered on the Concert given in March 2006 in Southwark Cathedral involving 174 students from the nine SSLP Schools. We have produced Annual Reports in each subsequent year, with a special 10th Anniversary Report in 2013.



SSLP Students

Finance

Our initial DfES funding was for 3 years but we were fortunate to receive an additional grant of £10K for 2006-7 and have received financial support in the past from the Sutton Trust. Since then each school has continued to make an annual contribution to the SSLP which ensures this innovative and valuable project can continue.

Thank you

A huge thank you to all the staff, the LINKS and others, who have given up their time to arrange events for our students and for other staff from the SSLP schools. Their inspiration and efforts are much appreciated and are helping to make a difference.



SSLP Teachers

PARTNERSHIP AIM 1

For staff and students from schools in both sectors to work together to develop innovative practice and to share and broaden their experience in order to improve teaching and learning in the SSLP schools

PARTNERSHIP AIM 2

To raise student achievement by enhancing students' involvement in their own learning and by helping teachers to develop models of highly effective teaching.

PARTNERSHIP AIM 3

To produce research which will usefully inform the debate about factors which improve levels of achievement for students from different backgrounds in inner-city schools

SSLP: 2016/17 Membership

