

Annual Report

2022 / 2023



Southwark Schools
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Directors' Welcome

01

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as co-Director of SSLP, an organisation whose ethos and ambition I have been an avid supporter of during my 12 years of working in Southwark. This report highlights an extraordinary number and range of activities that bring together students, staff and schools across Southwark and beyond. I am especially proud that we have never been complacent about our work.



Marcus Huntley

Instead, alongside our link teachers, we constantly reflect and evaluate our partnership to ensure it rises to new heights each year. I am very much looking forward to working alongside my co-Director, Joe Spence, and our "Champions" in the coming year. We are all richer for this partnership, more connected, and able to inspire better futures for young people. - Marcus Huntley



Joe Spence

It's an honour and a pleasure to be a co-Director of SSLP as it enters its 21st year. I look forward to celebrating both this second decade of the engagement of so many of the senior schools of Southwark in a partnership of equals and to preparing for SSLP to reach maturity with its 21st anniversary next year.

Whether you are coming new to the work of SSLP or someone who has worked with us before, I think you will enjoy reading all that follows. If you are a long-standing supporter of the partnership, I hope you'll feel proud of this short account of some of the things that we've achieved in connecting schools and students and staff over the course of a hectic and exciting year.

We can take particular pride in the way everyone has wanted to come together again after the years of lockdown. We learn from, and support, each other in a myriad of ways, to the benefit of thousands of the young people of Southwark.

The SSLP is a voluntary organisation that depends on the engagement of those who work selflessly to make things happen. I'm pleased, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank my Co-Director of SSLP, Marcus, for his contributions in his first year in post and to join with him in thanking our Link teachers (now rightly renamed Champions) for all the work they did within and between schools to ensure that our events last year were well-attended and well-focused on the needs and wishes of the students and their teachers.

The sad note we have to share is that after seven fantastic years of work, in which the difference she has made has grown year by year and almost exponentially, we are saying goodbye to our SSLP coordinator Katie Barretta. All I can say by way of silver lining is she's had a major part in making us a model for independent state school partnerships around the country. - Dr Joe Spence

02 History & Leadership

The Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership (SSLP) arose from a Department for Education (DfE) 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 Irene Bishop CBE, then Head of St Saviour's & St Olave's Church of England School, and Marion Gibbs CBE, then Head of James Allen's Girls' School.

Grainne Grabowski, then head of St Michael's Catholic College took over from Irene Bishop in 2015, and was herself replaced by Catherine May, Head of St Saviour's & St Olave's in September 2015. **Marcus Huntley**, Head of Compass School Southwark, (now The Charter School Bermondsey) became a Director in September 2022 when Catherine May stepped down.

Dr Joseph Spence, Master of Dulwich College, has been a Director of SSLP since September 2015, when he took over from Marion Gibbs. The SSLP has employed a Partnership Coordinator since 2016.

Member schools of the the SSLP each nominate one or more senior leader who acts as an SSLP Link teacher. Link teachers meet approximately seven times a year to set priorities, agree key activities and to plan for future collaborations.

From September 2022 schools also nominated two Student Ambassadors to represent the school in a Student Council.

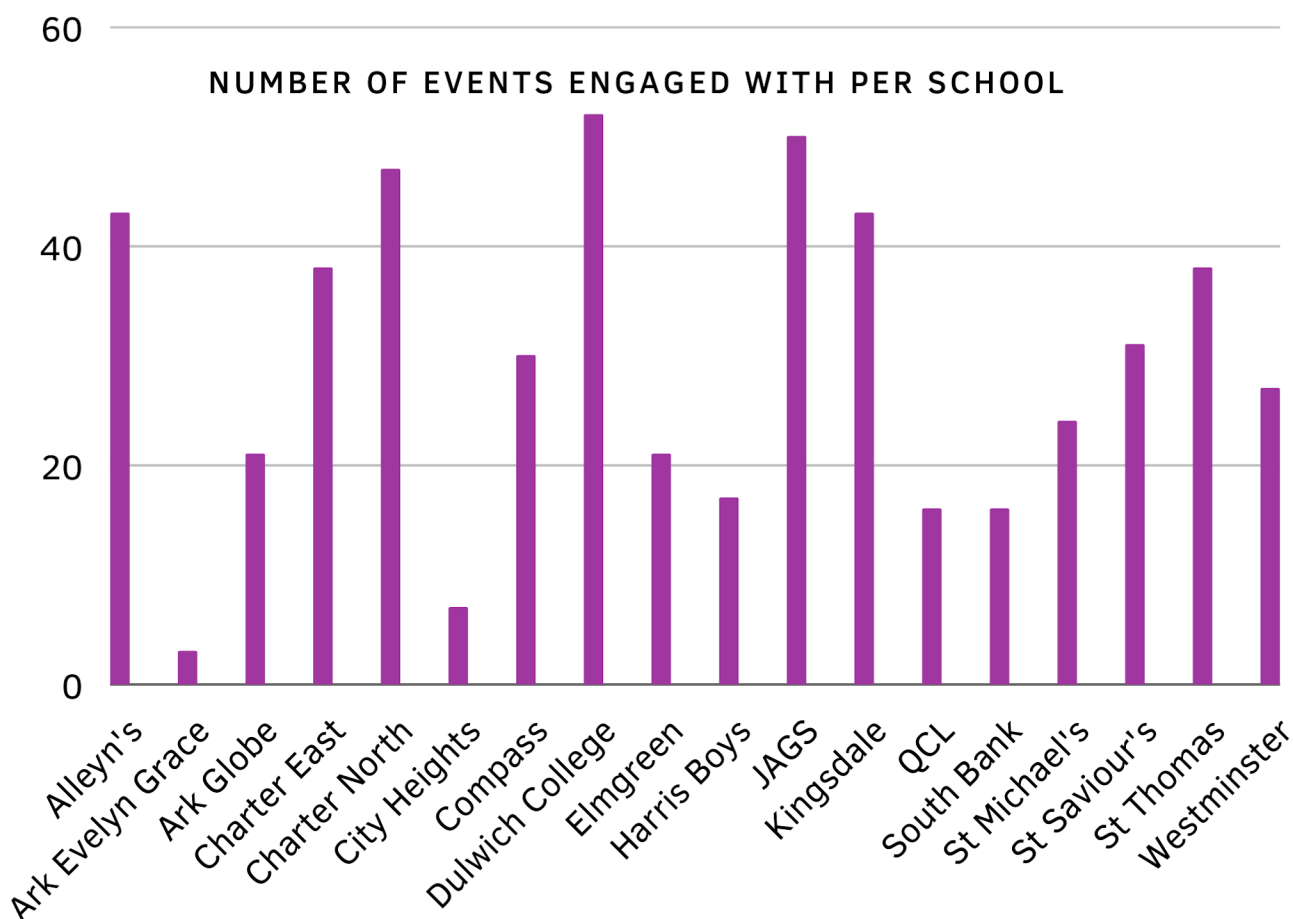
03 Membership

Partner schools are secondary schools from within the borough of Southwark who opt to join the SSLP. We also welcome schools from outside the borough as Associate Partners. The fee for the academic year was £1,000 per school (discounted to £750 for those without key stage 5). In 2022-23 there were eighteen member schools (13 Partner schools and 5 Associate Partners). Four of the schools are Independent, whilst the others are state funded schools and academies. They are:

Alleyn's School, Ark Evelyn Grace Academy, Ark Globe Academy, Charter School East Dulwich (The), Charter School North Dulwich (The), City Heights E-ACT Academy, Elmgreen School (The), Harris Boys Academy East Dulwich, James Allen's Girls' School, Kingsdale Foundation School, Queen's College London, St Michael's Catholic College, St Saviour's & St Olave's Church of England School, St Thomas the Apostle School and Sixth Form College, South Bank University Academy and Westminster City School.



Activities & Engagement 04



Over the academic year we ran **sixty two** exclusive activities for staff and students of SSLP schools. An additional two unique events that schools were running were opened up to participants from the other schools. Our Directors and Link teachers had a total of eight meetings, and requests for 1:1 support were met on fourteen occasions.

Thirty of the activities that we ran allowed the staff and students from partnership schools to access an opportunity equally and to know that their peers from other schools were engaged in the same activity - for example the photography competition, *So You Want to Be* and *Thinking About*.

We provided nine opportunities for staff to access training together and have several hubs where staff can share best practice and knowledge as required.

There were twenty-nine opportunities for students to collaborate together on projects such as sustainability and economics or to compete in friendly competitions.

05 Financial Statement

“TAKING PART IN SSLP ACTIVITIES ALLOWED STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR CONFIDENCE”



Each member school makes an annual contribution of £1,000 (£750 if no key stage 5) to the SSLP Co-ordinator's salary, running costs and activities. In 2022-23 we received the third of three annual payments from the Department for Education for the Student Voice project. Funding for this project was also received from Mr & Mrs Fiddy, parents at Dulwich College, to encourage greater engagement. The British Australia Educational Trust gave us £6,000 to facilitate two SSLP students to study at Canberra Grammar School in August 23.

We began the year with reserves of £24,923.37 and ended with £27,898.84.

Income

SSLP Membership Fees	£17,250
Department for Education	£6,000
Mr & Mrs Fiddy	£15,000
WCIB (Debating)	£7,740
Schools - Debating competition	£1,200
BASET	£6,000

Expenditure

Impact Evaluation	£2,400
Student Voice project (Sustainability)	£13,569.38
Debating	£10,220
Events expenditure	£1,602.13
BASET	£6,000
CERN	£1,000
Website & Communications	£423.02
Partnership Coordinator	£15,000

Total Income	£53,190
Total Expenditure	£50,214.53

Connecting Schools 06

WE WELCOME SCHOOLS WITH AN AMBITION TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THEIR STUDENTS AND STAFF. OUR SCHOOLS COMMIT TO SHARING IDEAS, RESOURCES AND FACILITIES AND TO LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER AS EQUAL PARTNERS.

Thinking About (Virtual)

Our Thinking About series for students in Year 10+ ran for a third academic year. There were nine guest speakers, reaching 257 SSLP viewers and providing 23 students with the opportunity to host. Our focus on sustainability encouraged discussions on business, housing and careers as well as exploring a broad range of topics beyond the curriculum from material transformation to Medusa.

So You Want To Be

Now in its second year our careers webinar series for key stage 3 students, attracted over 400 students to one of the four introductions to careers in Engineering, Science, Energy and the Civil Service.

Oxbridge Preparation

Fifty-eight SSLP applicants were provided with a mock interview by a subject expert that they'd not met before. In addition thirty-nine students attended online preparation classes in Economics, Engineering, English, History, and Maths and eleven students had mock medicine interviews comprising of seven mini interviews.

British Australia Society Education Trust

Thirty-nine students applied for one of two fully funded opportunities to study at Canberra Grammar School for 4 weeks. Two Kingsdale students were selected.

Debating (Workshops)

Seven SSLP schools each received six in-school debating workshops from the Debate Mate Core Programme. These were delivered between March and June depending on the availability of mentors and students. The workshops were paid for by the Worshipful Company of International Bankers.



SSLP Photography Competition

Staff and students were able to enter this competition which encouraged continued engagement for five rounds over as many months. We received a total of 223 entries, with winners announced monthly and best overall.

CERN Particle Physics School

Eighteen students applied for an opportunity to spend a week at CERN over the summer. Nine were given the opportunity, with two being financially supported by the SSLP.

07

Connecting Staff

WE ENABLE STAFF TO TRANSMIT THEIR PASSION FOR THEIR SPECIALIST SUBJECTS, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ABOUT EDUCATIONAL ISSUES, TO UNDERTAKE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO SHARE GOOD PRACTICE.

Oxbridge Preparation

Outreach officers from both Oxford and Cambridge provided training sessions for staff who support Oxbridge applications. Sixteen members of staff participated either online or in-person, updating their knowledge on the post-Covid application process.

Aspiring Pastoral Leaders

This was the third year whereby Alleyn's, JAGS and Dulwich College jointly funded guest speakers for the Aspiring Leaders personal development series. Three virtual guest speakers; Amy-May Forrester, Sonia Lupien and Bradley Busch; presented during the winter months and were followed by an in-person networking dinner with experienced senior leaders in the summer term. Sixty-four members of staff from 12 SSLP schools attended one or more of the sessions.



Bring About Change

As part of the Student Voice project sponsored by the Department for Education and a private donor, eight members of staff participated in a full-day's training facilitated by Young Citizens. This gave staff the skills and sample exercises needed to support students to design, lead and deliver social action projects themselves.

Debate Mate teacher Training

A 2.5 hour virtual training session delivered by Debate Mate provided 11 teachers with an opportunity to learn how to run a debating club, what to expect during a competition and how to incorporate debating into the classroom. This was sponsored by the Worshipful Company of international Bankers.

SSLP Hubs

Staff are invited to join role specific hubs for networking and support, as well as academic Hubs there are those for Librarians and Counsellors.



Connecting Students 08

WE OFFER ACTIVITIES THAT AIM TO NURTURE ASPIRATIONS. BY HARNESSING THE STUDENT VOICE, THE PARTNERSHIP OFFERS A CHANCE TO DEVELOP APTITUDES FOR LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK AND TO HONE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Thinking About (Live)

We experimented with two live *Thinking About* talks hosted by Dulwich College. The guest speakers, Baroness Floella Benjamin and Adam Kay, were preceded by a collaborative workshop which prepared students from different schools to ask questions during the Q&A. Approximately 150 students participated.

Gospel Choir

A truly collaborative event, our Gospel Workshop was coordinated by JAGS, hosted by Kingsdale, developed by Compass and led by Westminster City School. Eight schools participated in the full day where 235 students had opportunities to take on a mix of solo and chorus parts for two upbeat gospel songs.



Table Tennis Tournament

Forty students from 10 schools participated in this friendly tournament. Alin from the host school, Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich, won the individual competition with Compass School winning the team trophy.

Chess Competition

Twenty eight students from five SSLP schools took part in the competition for KS3 students hosted by Harris Boys Academy east Dulwich. It was won by a Nasir from Kingsdale, with Alfie from the host school in second place.



Song Writing Workshop

Eight bands from six schools came together for a Song Writing workshop organised by the SSLP Music Hub and hosted by The Charter School North Dulwich. They worked with four industry professionals in the morning, and performed after lunch; choosing to either do a cover or their own compositions.

Sixth Form Science Quiz

Alleyn's School hosted and organised the Science Quiz which attracted thirty SSLP students from four SSLP schools, plus 12 students from two other local schools. The hotly contested title was won by Team Plankton from JAGS who displayed a remarkable depth of scientific knowledge.

SSLP WCIB Debating Competition

Forty-two students took part in a day of debating which was sponsored by the Worshipful Company of International Bankers and run by Debate Mate. All students participated in three rounds of debate, receiving feedback and coaching tips before the final which was won by The Charter School North Dulwich.



Stained Glass Visit & Workshop

The twelve students who took part in this opportunity had a private tour of Westminster Abbey, focusing on the traditional and modern pieces of stained glass. In the afternoon workshop they designed their own pieces.

Young Economists Conference

Six fantastic speakers spoke to 270 A-Level Economics students over the course of a full day conference at Dulwich College. Talks were followed by a panel discussion and the day concluded with a 'pitch' competition from mixed-school groups. Following the Sustainability theme of the year the finalists pitched ideas to reduce the use of paper in schools, and to re-purpose vacant office space in London into accommodation and co-working areas.

Student Voice: Sustainability

New to the SSLP this year is our Student Voice Council. We've been hoping to add this additional leadership role for a number of years and were delighted to have 36 Ambassadors representing 16 SSLP schools. They've met three times and took leading roles at the Student Voice conferences.

60 students from 14 schools came together for a conference at the end of November. They heard about the sustainable venue we were in, food waste from OddBox and Biodiversity from The London Wildlife Trust. During the afternoon of the conference students worked in four groups where they identified social action projects to improve sustainability in their school environments.



The students collaborated in fortnightly online meetings to progress their projects through the spring and early summer terms. Finally in May 81 students attended a conference where they pitched their projects to other schools. Their new resources are designed to help us Waste Less, to start a Sustainable Cookery Club, to raise awareness of Foodbanks in our Community, and to run a Re-Project such as a book swap.

The final Sustainability event was when 14 students with different educational needs visited Woodlands Farm. They met a range of farm animals and practiced their new orienteering skills.

Evaluation & Annual Reports 09

ImpactEd have been working with the SSLP for the past three years to support with evaluating their impact on the SSLP community, for both pupils and staff. Initial work with the SSLP involved putting together a Theory of Change (ToC). A ToC is a planning tool that helps you to plan new work in line with overall strategy, communicate the purpose of what you do, and decide what information to collect to evaluate your programme or services. A ToC shows how you expect outcomes to occur over the short, medium, and longer term as a result of your work. It focuses on what you want to achieve, rather than what you want to do. ImpactEd worked with the SSLP to devise a ToC that covers as many aspects of the partnership work as possible.

Key Findings from 2022/2023

What is the impact of the SSLP activities on pupils, according to staff and pupil quantitative feedback?

On average, pupils and staff rated the pupil facing events highly, with many stakeholders noting that they were 'excellent.' Pupils seemed to particularly enjoy meeting new students from other schools, and working with people that they wouldn't usually work with. Staff and pupils shared that they thought there would be a longer-term impact after the events, such as researching more into sustainability and making new friends.

What is the impact of the SSLP activities on pupils, according to staff and pupil qualitative feedback?

Staff reflected on the variety of activities that were available to pupils, and how this had allowed them to learn new things outside of their direct curriculum. Activities run by the SSLP also encouraged schools to set up their own internal activities, such as a debating club. Staff shared that taking part in SSLP activities had allowed pupils to develop their confidence. Pupils and staff reflected on the positive impact of collaboration across schools. In particular, pupils noted that they enjoyed meeting new people, and that it had increased their feeling of community. Staff reflected on how beneficial it was for students to spend time with others that might have different backgrounds to them.



What is the impact of the SSLP Student Council on participating pupils?

Pupils largely reflected positively on participating in the Student Council, sharing that they were encouraged to and had the opportunity to share their ideas, helped decide things like activities or rules and feel like they have a voice in the SSLP.

What is the impact of the SSLP on staff and teachers, according to staff quantitative feedback?

Staff reflected positively on the Aspiring Pastoral Leaders sessions, with almost 90% of participants noting that they felt better equipped in their current role after taking part. Participants in the programme shared that it was interesting and helpful to hear about careers in pastoral support, as well as to learn more about how to support pupils. 90% of link teachers reflected that teachers in their schools had taken part in activities that they wouldn't have had the opportunity to without being part of the SSLP community. The sense of the SSLP community was high amongst SSLP link teachers, with one noting that it had filled a much-needed gap where support might have been received by the LEA or a MAT in other schools.

What is the impact of the SSLP on staff and schools, according to staff and senior leader qualitative feedback?

Staff reflected that the collaboration between schools offered by the SSLP was really helpful, particularly for smaller schools who could look for support from other SSLP schools for things like supporting with marking and sharing resources. Staff and senior leaders also reflected on the positive experience of participating in CPD sessions run by the SSLP and valued that they were able to meet other teachers in person through these trainings. Teachers and leaders shared about some logistical challenges with participating in SSLP events, such as finding a good time that works for everyone and finding staff to supervise.

Staff and senior leaders were of the viewpoint that the SSLP brand, and whether students knew whether an activity was run by the SSLP, was less important than the opportunities and collaboration that is offered by the partnership.





**“WHAT’S IMPORTANT IS THAT WE
ARE ALL CONNECTED AND HELPING
EACH OTHER”**



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LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

For more information contact admin@sslp.education