

Engagement and Partnerships Report 2019-2020

At Marish Academy Trust, we value the support and collaborations we have with our local community and we continually aim to develop our local connections to ensure our pupils have access to the best possible opportunities and to offer our expertise and resources to others. We also aim to ensure that our pupils develop a greater understanding of the world around them which promotes social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of learning in a local context.

Below you will find some information on a selection of Trust-wide partnerships that we currently maintain:

Langley Grammar School

Langley Grammar School offers support to Marish and Willow by offering us use of their facilities for school events throughout the year. Each half term, classes across the Trust with the highest attendance earn a 'cinema treat'. Langley Grammar allows us access to their lecture theatre, complete with seating and screen, to hold this event. Further to this, Langley Grammar also host our Children's University Graduation at the end of each academic year. Once again they provide the venue and contribute to the speeches and grandeur of the day to really emphasise the sense of achievement. Having such a strong link with a highly regarded secondary school helps to develop a sense of aspiration in our pupils.



Day a Week School

Day a Week School (DWS) is a project for gifted and talented pupils across Slough. It is devised and led by Gill Howarth, a previous Gifted and Talented advisor for the Local Authority. She meets a range of pupils from across Slough every Wednesday at Langley Grammar School and delivers non-timetabled session on challenging work, mainly based on science, maths and philosophy. The main selling point of this project is that children of a similar ability get to collaborate together in a class setting, which they do not normally have the opportunity to do. We currently have three year 5 pupils from Marish and two from Willow attending Day a Week School.

Social, Emotional and Behaviour Difficulties Outreach Service (SEBDOS)

SEBDOS is an outreach service based at Littledown School. They support and mentor children with behavioural and emotional difficulties and set programs for them to work on. The mentors from SEBDOS have worked alongside us for years to mentor children, support staff with strategies and assist with engaging parents. This year they have supported several of our pupils and with our year 6 pupils they have offered to provide support in transitioning them to secondary school. They have offered to mentor the children in preparing for change but they are also going to assist staff in making connections with secondary schools and helping to pass on the relevant and crucial information about these pupils in order to give them the best start in their new school.

The Library

We continue to maintain strong links with the local libraries – both The Curve and Langley Library. The four Resource Base classes have recently had a visit to Langley Library and local librarians hold an assembly each summer term to introduce the Summer Reading programme. Students are encouraged to visit the library over the summer and throughout the year to encourage a life-long love of reading.

Slough Music Service

We continue to work alongside Slough Music Service and participate in all of their events. Currently, pupils from both schools are receiving weekly guitar lessons in small groups. We have several pupils in both schools who have achieved grade-levels in guitar, violin and piano.

As well as this, Slough Music Service run several events, projects and concert throughout the year which we are always keen to attend to represent our school, and be part of a community initiative. Both Marish and Willow KS1 choirs, as well as KS2 at Willow, took part in the Christmas singing festival which was held at St. John the Baptist Church in Windsor. They performed well and enjoyed the experience of being part of a massed choir with hundreds of other children from across Slough.



Slough Sports Network

Slough Sports Network provide the calendar and fixtures for all sporting competitions across the borough and we take an active role in participating in all events. This is something that our pupils and staff enjoy and we aim to provide our children with as many clubs, opportunities and experiences as possible and so we get involved in everything that they have to offer. As well as this the network offer lots of CPD for staff throughout the year and all of our PE department have attended various courses to share a wealth of strengths within the team.

Create Development

Create Development is an initiative that we still continue to support and promote within our PE curriculum. We deliver REAL PE, use FUNS cards and still use some of the assessment wheels to base measure progress in PE.

Everyone Active (Incorporating Langley and Montem)

Both of the leisure centres provide a weekly swimming lesson for our year 4 pupils. This is vital part of their education and for many of our pupils the only chance they will have to receive swimming lessons and learn to swim.

Your Schools Games (Sainsburys)

Both Marish and Willow have now been awarded Gold in the Yours Schools Games Sainsburys Award. This award measures how well a school progresses in PE, sporting games and competitions including how many opportunities they provide their pupils with and we are proud to say that both of our schools are working at the highest standard.

Greggs

The Greggs Foundation provide free loaves of bread to our school breakfast clubs. This is very useful service as our breakfast clubs grow by the month. With finding cuts to both schools and growing numbers of children who need breakfast, including free spaces offered for pupil premium and vulnerable children this is a valued partnership.

Bikeability

Bikeability have been in to both schools to deliver cycle training, bike mobility courses and beginner courses for our younger children. They take the older pupils out onto the local roads and teach them about road safety and the basic rules of the Highway Code. Reception and year 1 have recently had bike mobility training and learnt to balance and control their bikes.



Langley Academy

The Langley Academy support us by letting us use the facilities such as grounds, equipment and football pitches because they can provide resources that we don't have access to ourselves. In return, we take a selection of their pupils for work experience training every year. We let their students lead some of our clubs, competitions and fixtures to develop them further. The Local Authority also provide us with referees for some of our events and fixtures.

Langley Free Church and St Paul's Church

Every year our year 6 pupils visit the Langley Free Church to participate in workshops: Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Cracked to develop their knowledge of the Christmas and Easter stories. Willow children attend St. Pauls Church and Marish attend the Langley Free Church. This is always well received by the pupils and it helps them to recognise that their local churches support the community in many different ways and give a deeper understanding of biblical stories.

Sri Guru Singh Gurdwara

When our pupils study Sikhism in RE they visit a local Gurdwara, where they are told about how the Gurdwara works and why they do things the way they do. The main principles of Sikhism are explained and children enjoy taking part in workshops and few children are given a chance to have a turban put on by the workshop leader. They end the trip by having delicious meal in the Langar.

St. John Beaumont School

Each year, Marish and Willow complete in a very challenging maths competition hosted by St John Beaumont School. It is of a very high standard and many schools participate. It is a great event for our most able mathematicians as they really get to put their skills into practise and work against other extremely talented pupils.

Marish Wizards/Berks and Bucks FC

We have a continuing partnership with Marish Wizards, who have several different teams under different age brackets and are an official team within the Berks/Bucks League. The team is for any child within the community and they train at Marish every Saturday. Berks and Bucks FC also support us in running various different football events and tournaments including girls football which we hosted an event in at Marish in September. Eighteen different teams came to play and over 100 girls took part.



The Children's University

We have a very successful partnership with The Children's University and our schools are advocates for their scheme and passion for extended learning. Through our extracurricular menu that we have devised, we host many clubs run by staff, but also offer a number of clubs offered by club providers in the community including Moberly Stars Judo, Aiming High Ballet and Dance, Computer Xplorers coding club, Thames Valley Cavaliers and Mad Science club. Our pupils have enjoyed these clubs so much that they remain some of our most popular clubs and have encouraged the children to take these sports or subjects further in their own time and develop them into a talent.



Finally, it has to be mentioned that not every partnership or initiative to engage children was mentioned in this report, simply because we have so many of them including Slough Rugby Club, Engage Water sports, The English Schools Football Association, The FA and Reading FC, as well as many more.

The opportunities, chances, experiences, and educational value that all of these community partnerships bring are invaluable to our children's education and we strive to continue to make links with our community in order to provide this extended learning. We are proud of what we have achieved so far and we look forward to improving our provision further in whichever way we can.