



Public Benefit and Outreach Report to Governors: Academic Year 2020-2021

This report covers the academic year 2020/21 when Public Benefit and Outreach activities were affected by the COVID 19 pandemic and the second lockdown of schools during the Spring term.

Public Benefit

The School actively supports the attainment of the highest educational standards, partly by networking with other schools (independent and maintained) and partly by peer group studies to evaluate quality and performance improvement methods. We also co-operate with many local charities in our on-going endeavours to widen public access to quality education, to optimise the educational use of our cultural and sporting facilities and to develop our pupils' social awareness of the wider community in which the School operates.

In the furtherance of these aims the Governors, as the charity Trustees, have carefully considered and complied with the duty in s.17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when considering the School's objectives and activities.

Bursaries and Scholarships

The School is committed to providing financial assistance to families whose daughters meet the School's entrance criteria but who are of limited financial means. The principal form of such assistance is through the award of bursaries, which range from 50% to 100% of fees. The provision of bursaries is widely advertised and, where available bursary funds are less than the demand from academically qualified applicants, awards are made on the basis of the applicant's performance in the entrance examination. Each award is subject to annual financial assessment.

The School also provides financial hardship assistance in certain circumstances when parents (or the fee payer) of girls already in the School suffer unexpected financial hardship. Each case is assessed on an individual basis and the form of assistance is determined according to specific circumstances.

In addition to the bursaries ordinarily provided on an annual basis, the School continued to face an unusually high level of parental requests for financial hardship assistance during 2020-21. This reflected the considerable impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on many of our parents' incomes. The School responded to this demand by giving parents more time to pay and offering fee reductions in certain situations. Collectively, the School provided means tested financial assistance totalling £1,209,000 in 2020-21, an increase of £17,000 over the level of the prior year. With the general economic recovery and the consequential reduced effect of the pandemic, the School expects to provide a lower level of financial hardship assistance in the current year than in 2020-21.

To help achieve the School's goal of increasing the level of means tested financial assistance provided to parents, the School has devoted a much greater level of effort to fundraising campaigns (see "*Fundraising*" below), the primary focus of which is to increase donations to the School's bursary fund. The School is very pleased that such efforts have begun to bear fruit, with significant donations to the bursary fund in the last several years. In addition, the School once again invited parents, as it did in 2019-20, to contribute the general fee discount offered by Governors during the year (see "*Financial Review and Results for the Year*" below) to a 2020-21 financial hardship fund specifically created to help parents requiring assistance to pay fees during 2020-21. Of the £1,209,000 in total means tested financial assistance provided in 2019/20, £170,000 was made possible by donations to the School's bursary fund as well as to the 2020-21 financial hardship fund.

In addition to the means-tested forms of financial assistance described above, the School also awards academic, music, drama, art and sports scholarships to exceptional candidates who are assessed on the basis of written examinations, interview and/or audition. Such scholarships are generally worth no more than 10% of fees and are not means tested. Staff whose daughters attend the School are also entitled to a remission on school fees based on a percentage which varies depending on the year in which they were employed by the School.

In 2020-21, 185 pupils (20% of the total number at the School) received bursaries, hardship assistance, scholarships or staff fee remissions having an aggregate value of £1,593,000 (8.8% of gross fee income). Of these, 74 received means tested financial support, of which 38 were full bursaries.

Community Activities

Through its Public Benefit activities, the School endeavours to foster the aims of its founder by engaging with local, national and international bodies, building strong relations with the local community and encouraging its pupils to contribute positively, willingly and with altruism, for the greater good.

The School's mission statement for its community activities, by which all of our current and future Public Benefit and Community activities should be judged, is as follows:

- Acknowledge that by attending LEH, pupils receive an outstanding education, which brings with it responsibility to society;
- Inculcate a culture of participation in the service of the community, locally, nationally and internationally;
- Raise pupils' awareness of issues which challenge their perceptions of others;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to engage in activities with members of the local community, in particular school children and the elderly;
- Provide a stimulating extra-curricular programme which embraces engagement with national and international bodies;
- Engage the whole school in charitable giving;
- Facilitate the use of the school buildings by groups and schools in the local area;
- Develop educational partnerships with local cluster schools.

The range and extent of the School's public benefit activities was significantly reduced in 2020-21 compared with prior years due to Covid-19 related restrictions. However the School remained keen to maintain its activities wherever possible.

Links with Local Maintained Schools

A series of evening on-line “Wellbeing Wednesday” parent talks on a variety of PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) topics were organised by LEH and were advertised to our local state schools. They were well attended by parents from the schools.

The School’s Deputy Head Pastoral continued as the LEH Governor on the Local Governing Board of Reach Academy, Feltham attending Governor meetings remotely. At a curriculum level, LEH continued to support the development of A Level Physics and Psychology teaching at Reach, providing support remotely.

Our links with Hampton High continued throughout the year and LEH was able to donate a large number of Modern Foreign Language textbooks to Hampton High.

Links with Other Organisations

In addition to the above, the School raises awareness among LEH pupils of a number of societal issues through links with other organisations such as Amnesty International.

Charity Fundraising

Charity fundraising involves the whole School community in raising money and awareness for good causes. The School elects a charity for the year, which becomes the major focus of charitable giving; charities alternate between an overseas charity and a UK based charity. This focus does not preclude other charitable giving, and each year there are a number of smaller charities which benefit from the School’s fundraising efforts. Full details of recent fundraising events are displayed on the School’s website (www.lehs.org.uk). In 2020-21 LEH’s senior school raised over £5,700 for the charity Doctors Without Borders and the junior school raised £3,000 for Friends of the Earth. In addition, over £1,600 was raised for various other charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support and the Down’s Syndrome Association. A sizeable donation of clothing was also collected for the Richmond Refugee Centre.

For information regarding LEH’s fundraising for its own charitable purposes, please see *Fundraising*.

Cultural Contribution and Sporting Facilities

During 2020-21, Year 9 pupils from LEH created a musical production of Three Little Pigs which was recorded and sent to local primary schools.

The School also gave free use of its swimming pool to the Sea Cadets and also offered free weekly access to a number of local state schools.

The Environment

The School recycles food waste and cardboard from the dining halls. During the year in review, the student led EcoSquad continued to proactively work towards further reducing the use of plastic and paper in school.

Under the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) regulations, the School prepares a report every three years which is designed to identify energy saving opportunities. The most recent tri-annual report was completed in February 2020 listed a number of opportunities which the School has begun to implement. For the year ended 31 December

2018 (the most recent for which data is available), the School consumed 3.29m kWh of energy. An updated report is planned for early 2022.

Further energy saving measures have also been identified as part of the School's 5 year sustainability strategy, which is designed to reduce our environmental impact. The strategy has a number of planks: (1) minimising our energy and water consumption, (2) reducing our waste generation, (3) decreasing our transport carbon footprint, (4) increasing bio-diversity across the School's 23 acre site and (5) promoting sustainability principles among pupils and staff, with each plank having a series of specific measures that are planned to be completed within the next several years. The School is proud to have largely eliminated single use plastics in school and to source all of its electricity from renewable sources, including 256 solar panels deployed on site. The School has also begun a multi-year programme of replacing older windows with modern, highly insulated models and replacing older light fixtures with LED alternatives. As part of its sustainability strategy, the School plans to define a wide range of further specific objectives, which will be regularly assessed and reported to the Board of Governors.

The School's most recent major capital projects, the completion of the Student Gateway in 2017 and the ground floor of the Quadrant in 2021 have both been designed to achieve an "Excellent" BREEAM rating, an internationally recognised certification standard that assesses the environmental and sustainability features of new buildings.