

# A PART OF SOCIETY



BRIGHTON  
COLLEGE





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“  
**Brighton College  
turns out good  
human beings, not  
just clever ones.”**

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

# Welcome to our social responsibility report

**There are many ways in which independent schools make a really positive difference to our country.**

Each year, we provide new generations of scientists and doctors ready to tackle the world's next health crisis. We keep alive musical and dramatic traditions that are lost to too many schools. We nurture modern languages, squeezed out of too many schools' curriculum. And, amongst many other things, we champion the importance of sport, producing some of England's greatest Olympians, sportsmen and sportswomen.

But this document is about none of that. Essentially, it is about two things: first, it deals with the positive economic impact the College has on Brighton and Hove, providing jobs directly and indirectly for hundreds of local people; second, it deals with the wide

social impact of the College which, through the energy and good will of pupils, teachers and parents, provides sustainable support for dozens of local and national charities and causes each year, as well as free places at the College for more and more young people from disadvantaged or refugee backgrounds.

I hope that what follows provides a flavour of what goes on beyond the classroom and how we seek to live up to the motto to 'be a part of society not apart from it'. We are excited by the journey we have embarked upon while ever mindful of the need to do more each day, each week and each year.

**Richard Cairns**  
Head Master



# Everyone can be an activist

At the start of each academic year we hold our 'Make a Difference Day'. Each pupil and member of staff joins forces with a local charity or organisation to help with tasks in and around the county – from caring for animals at Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare, to holding musical recitals at local care homes, to helping manage woodlands on the South Downs.

This day introduces new pupils to the importance of community involvement, and reminds the whole school that we are a part of society, not apart from it. In September 2020 we made this approach a part of the curriculum, with our initiative 'BC Change'.

BC Change is an opportunity for pupils to learn more about campaigning and supporting causes close to their hearts. The bespoke course introduces a huge range of social and environmental issues, and enables pupils to create effective, strategic campaigns. This takes the form of a six-week 'bootcamp', where real-world movements around climate action, equality and poverty are used as inspiration. The programme champions youth advocacy directly through the curriculum.

We regularly remind our pupils they really can make a difference - that

they have the tools, strengths and confidence to make society better. In addition to BC Change we have a community service programme that is also a part of the school timetable. Through this pupils are able to work with a variety of local organisations and offer support.

Our partnerships with local causes and charities broadly spans three key areas: **social inclusion**, **education equality** and the **environment**. Each of these areas are highlighted in this document.

“

Wherever you go in life, whatever you do, I hope that none of you ever looks back on a life where you might have helped someone, stood up for someone, or protected someone, but did not.”

Sir Ian McKellen, speaking to Brighton College pupils in 2017



# Charities we have supported



# Playing our part

“  
A short message of thanks like this can never convey anywhere near the same magnitude of good as has been done by your outreach programme.”

Alzheimer's Society

“  
Thank you Brighton College. It's all about community and you have brightened up the lives of our members.”

Blind Veterans UK

“  
In recognition of your dedication, passion and hard work in supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Mayor of Brighton Champions Award

“  
I don't think it can be realised how much we octogenarians look forward to the students' visits and the enthusiasm with which they undertake their respective roles.”

Time to Talk Befriending

“  
We are so grateful for the support of your students, parents and staff. The books will be shipped to Ghana and spread across 42 community-led education centres.”

EduSpots

“  
Thank you to all the pupils from Brighton College who have made a huge difference painting the pavilions at Hove Lagoon. We were so impressed with what you did.”

Friends of Hove Lagoon



“  
Social conscience is a  
defining feature.”

THE SUNDAY TIMES

£140k  
raised by pupils  
each year

43k  
community  
service hours  
each year

100  
community  
projects and  
charities  
supported



HIS FOUNDATION STONE  
LAID BY THE MAYOR OF BRIGHTON  
ALDERMAN T. E. MORRIS J.P.  
ON THE 22ND DAY OF OCTOBER  
1947  
COUNCILLOR J. T. FEAK  
CHURMAN OF THE EDUCATION  
WE MAKE M.M.M.E  
ENGINEER & SURVEYOR P. BILLINGTON ARCHITECT

# Contributing to the economy

We've provided support to:

Artwave

BBC Proms

Brighton Festival

Brighton Fringe

Brighton Marathon

Brighton Pride

Charleston Literary Festival

Glyndebourne

Homelink Gala

Kemptown Arts Trail

Kemptown Carnival

Martlets

Regency Society

Royal Tunbridge Wells  
Dance Festival

Strictly Cricket (MNDA)

Theatre Royal

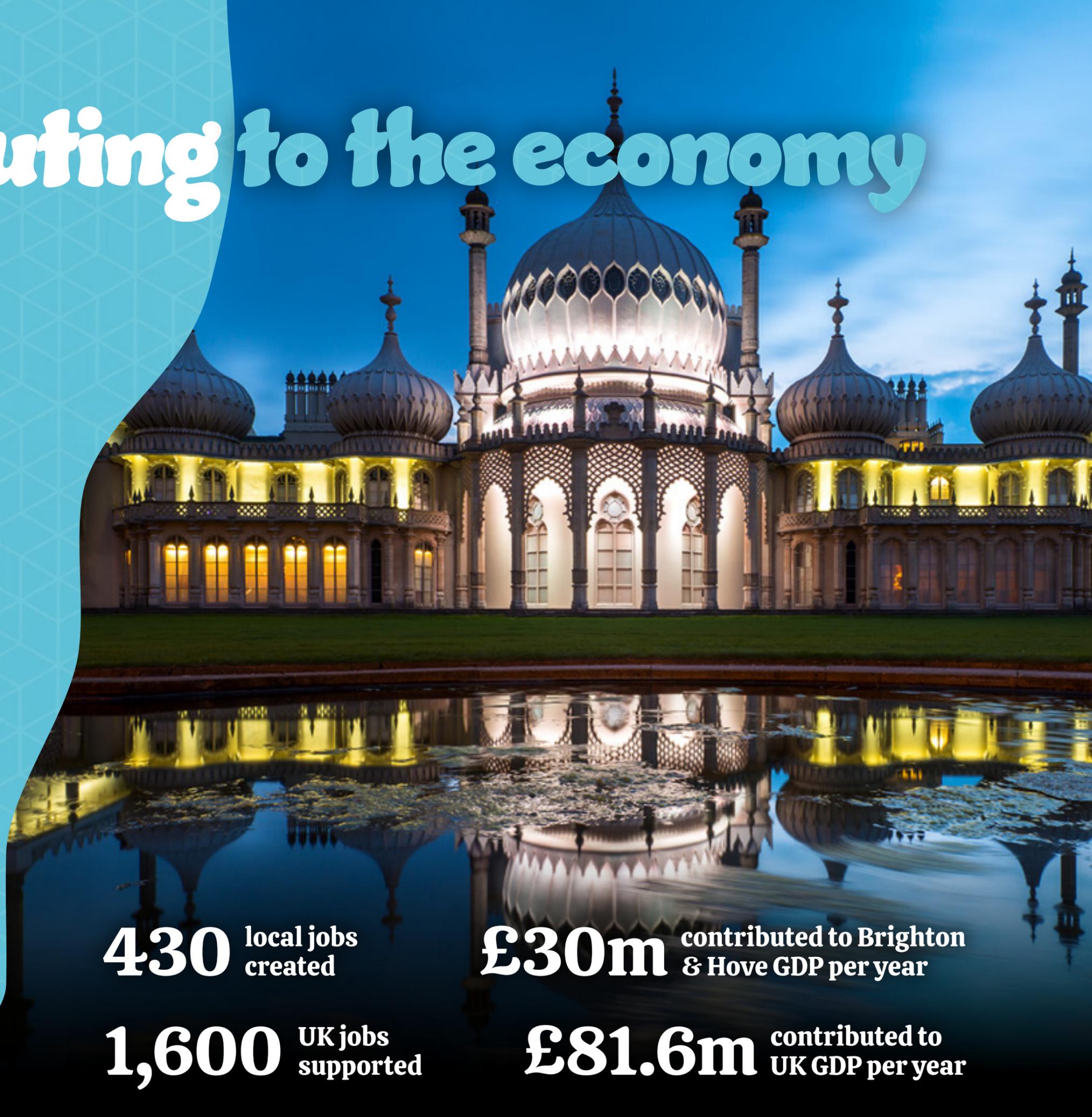
Whitehawk FC

**430** local jobs  
created

**£30m** contributed to Brighton  
& Hove GDP per year

**1,600** UK jobs  
supported

**£81.6m** contributed to  
UK GDP per year



# Part one

# SOCIAL INCLUSION



# Supporting the refugee and migrant community



In 2015, during the Syrian refugee crisis, our Head Master Richard Cairns reinforced the moral responsibility that we, as a community, have to support those fleeing war and persecution.

Our teachers partnered with local charity Voices in Exile to determine how best to support the growing network of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers in the city. Together we developed a series of English language lessons that staff and pupils deliver every week.

As our relationship with the network grew so did this initiative. Pupils, staff and parents from the College volunteered to provide weekly language lessons, along with help with 'Life in the UK' examination preparation, childcare and spaces for safe social gatherings.

The programme is now more popular than ever, with

participants joining us each week from further afield than Brighton.

Our boarding community leads the Sunday sessions, held at the College, and we focus on conversation skills, interview skills and exam preparation for teenagers.

This partnership has become a cherished part of the Brighton identity. We regularly invite musicians from the refugee community to play in assemblies and in Chapel, and teachers of Arabic from the network will be holding introductory sessions for pupils and staff at Brighton who wish to learn the language.

“  
We consider our relationship with Brighton College to be like a brother and sister. Your pupils have helped our community so much.”

Sussex Syrian Community Group



Inspired by pupils:

# The Opening Doors Scholarships

**At the first session with the Syrian refugee community, the school met two extraordinary teenagers – Sulaiman and Elias. Both had arrived in Brighton after incredibly long and demanding journeys from their homes. Their stories and potential inspired us, and both were awarded full scholarships to Brighton College's Sixth Form.**

During their time at the College they both helped at the Sunday sessions, where they taught Syrian children Arabic. They did so well in their A-levels that they received additional scholarships for university – Sulaiman to study maths at Balliol College, Oxford, and Elias to study medicine at Queen Mary University of London.

Sulaiman reached out after his graduation to express his gratitude for the support he received in the Sunday sessions and at the College. His determination to work hard and pursue his dreams, regardless of what life had thrown at him, touched us. We resolved to ensure that many more young people like him might also benefit from the same life-transforming opportunity to attend the College.

And so, in September 2019, we launched the Brighton College Opening Doors Scholarships programme to do just this. A direct product of our work with the Syrian community, Opening Doors offers twenty completely free Sixth Form places for talented and ambitious young people from the local area for whom our pastoral care and academic rigour will prove to be life-changing – with Sulaiman as the very first Opening Doors Ambassador.

This is a scholarship programme purely for local pupils who have experienced a significant disadvantage or who have been displaced – such as a refugee.



# Street community and food banks

The Trussell Trust food banks are currently giving out two food parcels every minute in the UK, and Brighton has seen a four-fold increase in the number of referrals in the last year.

Our initial involvement supporting food banks began during our Make a Difference Day several years ago. Pupils from Seldon House helped out at food banks across the city and learnt about the importance of such resources and the increasing need for them in recent years. As a result, these pupils launched a '12 Days of Christmas' food bank challenge just a few weeks later.

This led to a five-fold increase in donations to food banks in the city at a crucial time of year. The success of this challenge resulted in Seldon House advocating for a permanent food bank within the

College, working with Whitehawk Food Bank to establish a donation point.

Donations are made steadily throughout the year. We use our weekly College newsletter to regularly ask pupils, staff and parents to consider making specific donations when food banks are experiencing shortages. Our Chaplain also leads the Harvest Festival donation drive, which in recent years has included the use of the Bankuet app to allow those families unable to donate in person to provide digital support.





# Friendships across generations

**Loneliness affects all generations, but is particularly prevalent amongst elderly people. Brighton College partners with Time to Talk Befriending to provide weekly visits to elderly members of our local community.**

Time to Talk Befriending is an intergenerational charity for isolated and lonely people aged 65 and over. It has a proven record of helping older people reconnect to their communities through friendship and companionship with volunteers of all ages. The organisation has 300 volunteers, over 30 of whom are College pupils.

All pupil volunteers receive training, and our partnership has helped provide support in several ways. Sixth Form pupils host a weekly tea party in a local church, with cakes and refreshments provided by the College. This church also hosts several large community events throughout the year, coordinated by the College and with entertainment provided by our pupils and staff.

The College also hosts three large on-site annual events. We invite local residents of nearby homes, as well as those living alone, through our befriending partner contacts. Our Chaplain leads a short service, our choir sings, our drama department performs and our pupils serve refreshments and sit with the guests.

These events enable small residential homes and charities to take part in large-scale events that would otherwise be beyond their means. Our pupils gain experience in event planning and performance - as well as the joy from intergenerational conversations and socialising. For many, these events are highlights of their year, and so lasting friendships between the school and local residents have formed.



# Men in Sheds

**The College works with the UK Men's Sheds Association to provide a larger version of the typical 'man's garden shed'; a place where someone can feel at home and pursue practical interests while connecting with others. Sessions help reduce loneliness and have a life-changing impact on those who take part.**

Our Design Technology (DT) department has partnered with Fabrica gallery, Brighton & Hove City Council, Equal Arts and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to deliver the weekly Men in Sheds project. Pupils work with members to complete projects that are either personal or are commissioned by other organisations or businesses. One example saw pupils building large peg looms for Fabrica's Textile Flow workshop in order to help visually impaired participants. Other examples include building shelving for an elderly resident at Leach Court, the repairing of a table in the computer room at retirement home Patching Lodge and the construction of bird boxes, insect hotels and bird tables for the Brooke Mead Extra Care housing scheme in collaboration with the College. Currently, the DT department is replacing damaged covers for floor sockets at Fabrica gallery.

To date, our Men in Sheds projects have provided over one thousand hours of contact time for 164 men, in a safe, friendly and inclusive environment.





# Dementia Friends

**People with dementia are often misunderstood, marginalised and isolated, which means they are less likely to be able to live independently in their own communities.**

As part of the College's commitment to be dementia friendly, every pupil and staff member recently undertook training to become a Dementia Friend. We then partnered with Time to Talk Befriending to deliver the Life Stories project (a Dementia UK project). This work is an activity in which a person with dementia is supported by trained Sixth Form pupils to gather and review their past life events. This results in the creation of a personal biography.

This biography is used to help the person understand their past experiences and how they have coped with events in their life. It also helps people with dementia share their stories and enhance their sense of identity. This is especially useful when they are having difficulty in sharing this information themselves. The final

written account is published and each member of the project receives a copy of the book.

We have found that deep friendships have formed between pupils and participants on this project, with pupils taking a very proactive approach. Some pupils have organised trips to visit places from their partners' youth. In the survey conducted at the end of the project, 100% of pupils said they would recommend this placement.

All the partners enjoyed the project, with one saying it really helped him deal with his diagnosis in a positive way. Partners unanimously said they thoroughly enjoyed talking with our young people each week and wider family members appreciated both the companionship and treasured memories captured.





# Pride

In 2017, Oscar-nominated actor and LGBT+ rights activist Sir Ian McKellen visited the school to talk about the importance of combatting bullying. This inspired pupils to request school involvement in the city's annual Pride parade.

Sixth Form pupils, joined by staff, created the first Brighton College float to march in the parade as a statement against all forms of bullying - but particularly homophobic bullying. This was the first time that any school had a float in a Pride parade in UK history.

Since then it has become an annual event for the College. Pupils and staff design and build the float, banners and placards. Our Dance School choreographs a piece for the parade march, and our swing band assemble on the float to play live music as we make our way through the city.

Although the day is one of celebration and colour it is also one of protest: we recognise that equality does not happen without change, and no form of bullying or unkindness should be tolerated in any school.

Participation in Pride is a part of our wider commitment to LGBT+ rights. We have been Stonewall Ambassadors, have active pupil-led Gender and Rainbow Straight Alliance societies at school, and celebrate LGBT+ history month with events and talks for all year groups.





CONNECT

ST PETER'S  
CARO CARO  
SUNDAY 8 D  
4PM, 6PM

ST PETER'S  
FAMIL

ST PETER'S  
BRIGHTON

Part two  
**EDUCATION  
EQUALITY**



# Partnering with local schools

Throughout the year we host an exciting programme of subject-specific, after school clubs and lectures for pupils from local primary schools. These school partnerships enable pupils from a range of backgrounds to learn together, and from one another.

Over the last few years we have worked with local primary schools to run academic extension sessions. This began with Minimus, a club designed to introduce primary pupils to classic civilisation, history and Latin. Every week, under the supervision of our teachers, Lower Sixth (Year 12) pupils design and deliver high-quality lessons to 'beginner' and 'experienced' visiting pupils.

The success of this led to other offerings, with a maths club and a creative club. This gives pupils in primary state schools the opportunity to study a subject they may not otherwise be taught, and it challenges Brighton pupils to extend their own knowledge and develop their teaching skills.

We also have a busy programme of external speakers who visit the school to give talks on a wide range of subjects. Whenever possible, these talks are opened up to pupils and staff from local schools and to the London Academy of Excellence.

This sits alongside our online 'Beyond GCSE Lecture Series', run by our teaching staff and designed to stretch the most able pupils from local schools beyond the GCSE syllabus.





# The London Academy of Excellence

This partnership came about through a discussion between Richard Cairns, Head Master of Brighton College, and Joan Deslandes, Head of Kingsford Community School in Newham. Brighton had offered Sixth Form scholarships to two or three Kingsford pupils for some years because they had no viable Sixth Form option in their borough.

Richard and Joan both felt that the opportunity to study for university should be extended to more pupils, and gained the support of other independent schools around London, along with HSBC Bank, to establish the London Academy of Excellence (LAE).

Brighton College continues to support the London Academy of Excellence in a variety of ways. Each year, Year 12 pupils at both schools are 'buddied up'. They visit each other at school, sit in on lessons and share ideas. Pupils from the LAE also come to Brighton for a UCAS and careers day in the summer term to prepare for life after A-levels.

Our teachers have, over the years, visited the LAE to teach, mentor and support academic departments and help facilitate co-curricular activities. Since 2019 a Brighton teacher has been based

at the LAE, teaching and overseeing partnership activities and events between the two schools. Staff training between the two schools also allows staff to spend INSET days together. Members of the Senior Management Team and Governors from Brighton College are also on the governing body of the LAE.

We provide £120,000 per year to fund the LAE, which bridges the gap between government support for 80 pupils and the actual cost of their LAE education. Our development team are proactive in supporting the fundraising efforts of the LAE and manages much of its donor communications programme. In 2019, we raised over £220,000 for the Academy in a special alumni and parent initiative.



The LAE and Brighton College:

# Inspiring excellence

**Opened in 2011, the LAE now prepares 200 Year 12 pupils and 200 Year 13 pupils for university and beyond. Since the first cohort of LAE students received their A-level results in 2014, outcomes have improved each year.**

In 2019, 65% of grades achieved were A\*/A, 93% A–B and 99% A–C. In *The Times'* A-level league table, published the day after results day in 2019, the LAE placed 17th overall, making it the highest-performing mainstream state Sixth Form provider for the fourth year running and one of the UK's top five state schools.

These impressive results have enabled record numbers of students to take up places on competitive courses at top universities. Before the LAE was founded, only 330 Sixth Formers from the whole of Newham took A-levels and fewer than 40 progressed to Russell Group universities. Only three progressed to Oxford or Cambridge from the borough. Since 2014, the LAE has sent more than 850 pupils to Russell Group universities, and 67 to Oxford or Cambridge.

In recognition of these achievements, the LAE was voted Sixth Form College of the Year by *The Times* in 2015-16 and in its most recent OFSTED inspection (October 2017) the LAE was rated outstanding in all categories and overall.





# EduSpots

In December 2014, Brighton College teacher, Cat Davison, travelled to a school in Tamale in Ghana with two suitcases of books donated by pupils from Seldon House. The impact these books had on the school led to the creation of EduSpots.

Others at Brighton quickly got on board with the idea of creating a new project, and the aims of the project were soon established, in cooperation with community leaders in Ghana.

The charity was created by teachers at Brighton, and in 2015 six pupil ambassadors from the school travelled with teachers to Ghana to work with the local community to establish the initiative. To this day we continue to be one of EduSpots' biggest partners.

We support the work of EduSpots by helping the charity build community-led libraries (or 'spots') and supply them with books and other educational resources through annual donations.

Committed volunteer teams help run the spots, and UK and Ghanaian pupils play a central role in promoting the aims of the charity and providing essential support in the form of writing newsletters, producing educational material, informing strategy and leading resource collection.

To date we have shipped over 100,000 books to Ghana. We won the TES 'International Award' for this project in 2018, after being shortlisted for it in 2017. The charity supports over 40 projects across Ghana, and has an estimated 400 volunteers working with it.

The spots, which are often the only free and inclusive education spaces in local districts, are used by an estimated 10,000 individuals.



# Explore Teaching internships

**There has been an increasing focus in recent years on whether the curriculum taught in the UK, and whether teachers themselves, are sufficiently representative of the diversity of the British population in the 21st century. Recognising this, we created 'Explore Teaching' internships to contribute to making the teaching profession more inclusive.**

We designed a two-week paid internship programme with three strands: the first, for women who are interested in STEM; the second, for individuals from Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage backgrounds; and the third, for men interested in primary-level teaching.

These three strands represent areas of under-representation in the profession, and are open to any current student or recent graduate who fits the profile - regardless of whether they've considered teaching before.

During their first week, interns shadow a pupil to experience the College from their perspective, and are paired with experienced teaching mentors. After shadowing their mentors, the interns take part in team teaching and learn about pastoral care and pupil welfare. They participate in co-curricular activities, and are involved in a range of social and networking opportunities - to engage with each other and to develop connections with their peers, Brighton teachers and local partners.

This programme enriches the academic life of the College and hopefully attracts bright new talent to the teaching profession beyond the College.





Part three  
**ENVIRONMENT**

# Make a Difference Day

This day, held annually at the start of the Michaelmas term, has become a highlight for pupils and staff. Pupils from all Houses and year groups travel in groups across Sussex to help out at a range of community organisations. Over the past few years the initiatives we have partnered with include:

Aldrington Primary School	Emmaus Brighton	Saltdean Lido
Arundel Wetlands	Friends of Sheepcote Valley	Scout Hut
Benfield Wildlife and Conservation Group	Fun in Action	Somerset Day House
Bevendean Farm	Hangleton Food Bank	St Anne's Day Centre
Birchwood House	Hove Lagoon	St John the Baptist Catholic Church
Birling Gap and Seven Sisters National Trust	Hove Primary School	St Leonard's
Blind Veterans UK	Hyman Fine House	St Luke's Primary School
Boomerang Kids	Martlets Warehouse	St Nicolas Primary School
Brighton & Hove CC	Middle Street Primary School	St Peter's Church
Brighton Conservation Volunteers	Mile Oak Farm	Stanmer Orchards
Brighton Food Bank	Moulsecomb Primary School	Stanmer Park
Brighton Unemployed Centre	National Trust	The Starr Trust
Brighton Women's Centre	Newhaven Food Bank	Steyning Downland Scheme
Brighton YMCA	Oaklands	Sussex Homeless Support
Broadstone Warren	Oasis Project	Sussex Wildlife Trust
Cancer Research	OneChurch Steyning (Rock Farm)	Tarner House
Carden Primary School	Pilgrim Home	Under the Bridge
Chailey Heritage	Queen's Park Primary School	Victoria Park
Clock Tower Sanctuary	Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare	Whitehawk Food Bank
Coombes Farm	Rockinghorse	Whitehawk Football Club
Cuckfield Cricket Club	Rottingdean Cricket Club	Widewater Lagoon
Deanwood	RSPCA Brighton	
Elm Grove Primary School	Royal Spa Nursery	



# Recycling and reducing waste

**We have made huge strides in our waste management, and through a combination of innovative practices and regular reviews we ensure that nothing from Brighton College goes to landfill.**

In 2019 we banned the misuse of plastics on campus, including single-use water bottles. Each pupil and member of staff was issued with a bottle made from sugarcane, which is biologically sustainable and has a net zero carbon impact, saving 31,200 bottles of water per year. Members of the College community are also expected to carry a 'Keep Cup', saving 8,000 disposable cups each week from our bins.

There are recycling hubs across the school, in every social space. These are managed by our maintenance team, and we work

in partnership with 14 different private recycling schemes. This means we are able to recycle items such as crisp packets, tooth brushes, batteries, pens and bread bags - which the local council often cannot.

All food on campus comes from sustainable sources, and packaging, where possible, is fully compostable. Food waste is also collected and used to make animal food or fertiliser.



# Carbon neutral target

The carbon footprint of UK schools currently stands at 9.4m tonnes of greenhouse gases per year, from heat and power in school buildings, pupil and staff travel, waste management, and the supply chain activities of companies providing goods and services to schools.

Brighton College is signed up to the #LetsGoZero schools campaign, uniting schools across the UK who are working to become carbon neutral.

Our newest buildings have a BREEAM 'excellent' rating for sustainability, awarded for responsibly sourced materials, best practice construction methods and the installation of certain sustainable features. For example, the Yeoh Building uses harvested rainwater in its toilets.

We constantly work to reduce our environmental impact. A newly formed strategic group meets regularly to capture our current impact and form ambitious but achievable goals to reduce our carbon footprint.



# Our future: climate activism



**Our pupils lead the charge in the fight against climate change. Many of our policies, activities and facilities have been directly inspired, and managed, by pupils.**

Each House has a Green Rep who attends meetings every term to discuss environmental issues as they relate to the school. Green Reps have the responsibility of feeding back to their peers and being involved in the creation of school-wide education campaign materials and assembly topics.

In addition to this, Sixth Form pupils can join the 'Green Team' as a service option on their timetables. This involves pupils and staff spending time discussing, planning and actioning green causes to create whole-school projects and resources.

Many of these pupils also actively engage with outside agencies to campaign for various causes. In the past, several pupils have been elected to the city-wide Environmental Education Committee, and have hosted Q&A sessions with local MPs.

In 2019 we encouraged our pupils to be involved in the global Youth Strike for Climate - a part of the international climate movement. Those with permission from their parents were allowed to

attend demonstrations, and shared their experiences with the whole school as a part of Green Week.

Climate change is the most pressing issue of our age, and we're proud that our pupils act of their own accord to hold all of us to account, and to help leave the world a better place than they found it.





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[brightoncollege.org.uk](http://brightoncollege.org.uk)