

Global School Partnership Agreement between Astley Community High School (UK) and Mahamaya Girls College, Kandy, (Sri Lanka)

Background information

Astley Community High School is a 13 – 18 mixed comprehensive school serving a suburban catchment area in the south east of Northumberland. Its 800+ students represent the full range of ability and socio-economic background.

Astley is very proud of its community status, and it was as a result of this wider commitment that, following the December 26th 2004 tsunami tragedy, the school became involved with the Success Sri Lanka Charity group to support reconstruction and educational projects in targeted schools.

In September 2006 Astley's Headteacher Ian Knight visited Sri Lanka as part of the British Council International Placement for Headteachers programme. During that visit he had the opportunity to visit a number of schools, some of whom have already benefited from support from Astley.

Mahamaya Girls College in Kandy is an extremely successful and well known Buddhist school with over 3000 girls from the ages of ? to 18 years. It is rightly proud of its achievements, facilities and tradition.

The Headteachers of both schools met in Sept 2006 when Ian Knight was on the IPH visit to Sri Lanka. As a consequence of that visit Astley was in a position to send a range of educational resources to Mahamaya College at the end of 2006.

It is hoped that curriculum projects can be formalised between the two schools, which will be of a long term nature, to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

This Partnership Agreement has arisen out of that initial meeting between the Headteachers. A draft proposal was forwarded to the Principal of Mahamaya College, Mrs Withanachchi. This was refined in April 2007 following Mr Knight's second visit to the school, and in conjunction with discussions with Mrs ? and Mrs ? (English Medium Staff) plus ? + ?, Mahamaya students.

The final version was agreed in an email and letter communication in Spring 2007.

A Shared Vision:

Both schools share a commitment in providing the international dimension within their curriculum offerings. We recognise the enormous value in broadening our students' view of the world via direct links with other cultures, religious and societies. We want our students to have the opportunity to become true global citizens and see a long-term reciprocal relationship between our two schools as making a huge contribution to achieving this aim.

Partnership Objectives:

- To establish and embed a number of curriculum projects in both schools, linking students of the same age. Links will take place via most appropriate medium of communication – mail, email, video-conferencing and exchange of digital materials via DVD and the internet.
- To enable reciprocal staff and student visits to each others schools.
- To give our young people a true global perspective.
- To achieve International School accreditation for both schools.

Action Plan and Timeline:

January 2007: Draft proposal and overview statement forwarded to Headteacher/Principal of respective schools.

February/March 2007: Internal discussions within each school to refine proposals.

April 2007: Partnership Agreement finalised following Astley Headteacher visit to Sri Lanka. Agreement registered with British Council.

May 2007: Formal presentations at both schools to students, staff, governors and parents regarding scope of project.

May/June 2007: Agreement regarding lead teachers for each individual proposed curriculum project. (Refer to action plan).

June 2007 – June 2008: Roll out of curriculum projects.

January 2008: Application to British Council for a Reciprocal visit Grant.

Spring 2008: Initial exchange staff visit. Visit will include first review of project progress and overall evaluation of partnership effectiveness using British Council suggested criteria.

Autumn 2008: Application to British Council for a Global Curriculum Project Grant, to further develop the partnership projects, including support for student and staff exchange visits.

June 2008 – June 2009 Second full year of partnership working. By this stage it is to be hoped that the curriculum will have become embedded in both schools, funding secured for further developments (including exchange visits) and there has been involvement of local community groups and organisations in both countries. Annual cycle of review, evaluation and action planning for the next year of the partnership established in both schools

Mrs Withananchchi
Principal, Mahamaya College
Kandy

Mr I G Knight
Headteacher, Astley Community High
School

Date: _____