



# New College Leicester

Learning & Sports Village

Outstanding Progress for All

## Community Engagement Report

### Project Aims

The overall aim of our projects is to enhance the learning of students at New College Leicester and contribute to the continued improving academic outcomes of all students. To this end the guiding principal on any involvement in projects that engage the community is that it contributes to this aim.

The priority is to develop existing programmes involving students to raise self esteem, confidence, self worth and to raise the profile of the college in the local community.

This year we have had over 140 volunteers working in the college in an increasing number of projects. These are outlined below.

### Individual mentoring delivered by the team

16 students have received long term mentoring by members of the team.

### Paired reading – 40 volunteers weekly. 80 students involved + team of staff

The numbers of students that are now receiving paired reading support has increased to 110 with a team of 40 volunteers from the community. Additional numbers of students are supported by staff working in the Library every day during the week.

#### In Year 7

There has been an increase in the majority of Year 7 reading with all students moving up between 2- 12 reading book levels from September 2014 – March 2015.

#### In Year 8

Students have moved up between 1-13 reading book levels. The most significant progress is seen in EAL students, the majority of which were supported by DMU students up until the Easter Break. These students entered New College Leicester in January 2015 and so their figures are particularly impressive. These students from Jan–March 2015 have moved up between 8-13 reading book levels.

#### In Year 9

Levels have moved up between 1-11 reading book levels. Here again EAL students have moved through the reading book levels from between 4-11 book levels.





# New College Leicester

Learning & Sports Village

Outstanding Progress for All

**Academic mentoring** - 35 volunteers in six week cycle. 70 students involved.

The Academic Mentoring Programme (AMP) began in October 2014 in collaboration with DMU Square Mile and university student volunteers. The aim of the programme was to create a supportive mentoring relationship which allowed students to explore their post sixteen choices and to evaluate and plan for the year ahead. The programme reflected aspects of the Personal Development curriculum which included career aspirations, motivation, UCAS college applications, goal setting, revision and study skills.

Students were able to discuss their progress, referring to their student interim progress data and agreed academic targets with their mentors. In the post evaluation, 93% of students indicated that having access to this data was really useful as it gave them a thorough picture of how they were progressing. Students received a copy of their mentoring record following each session as well as additional advice on exam stress, revision, college interviews and exam preparation. All students reported that this additional information was useful.



The AMP co-ordinator met with the Head of Year 11 after each session to discuss emerging issues and to refer Year 11 students for additional support. Direct referrals were made to the Connexions advisor for those students who required additional support in the new UCAS process. 100% of AMP mentees who completed the evaluations were happy to recommend the AMP programme to new Year 11 students. A similar response was provided by the DMU mentors who all stated they would recommend the programme to fellow students.

**The Listening Project** - 25 volunteers weekly. 50 students involved.

This project started in November 2014. We recruited mentors to work with Heads of Year in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11. The majority of mentors were students studying Psychology and had undertaken a short counselling module as part of their degree. Heads of Year nominated a group of students that they thought would benefit from mentoring on a weekly basis. In total 50 students were allocated a mentor and the evaluations have proved overwhelmingly positive.



# New College Leicester

Learning & Sports Village

Outstanding Progress for All

Comments from students have included:

*"I am working better in class"*

*"I am behaving more and I do my homework"*

*"It has helped my confidence by speaking to someone else."*

**EAL support** – 6 volunteers weekly. 12 students involved.

This has been a small scale project which we believe will have a massive impact on individual students. Each DMU student was paired up with two Year 11 EAL students as part of the Paired Reading Programme. The DMU students initially focused on improving reading and eventually moved into lessons to work alongside the EAL students, providing individual support in agreed subjects. This proved to be extremely successful with individual students and we intend to extend this approach next year.

**Subject Placements** – 20 volunteers weekly.

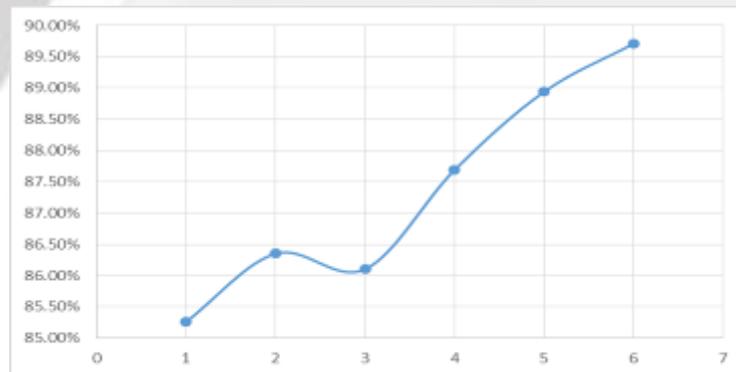
DMU students have worked in the following departments at various times during this year. They provide additional one to one support for our Year 11 and other students.

Departments involved have been: English, Art, Humanities, Science, Mathematics, French, Health and Social Care. Staff evaluations are positive and the extra support was welcome by all staff and students.

**Youth and Community placements** – 2 students' 120 hour placement. 10 students involved.

This year we had two first year DMU students on long term placements at the college from January to April. They continued an attendance project developed last year, working with students with attendance concerns referred by Education Welfare Officer and Year Heads. This project was managed by a third year Youth and Community student on her final placement. The outcomes were again positive with an example of the data shown below.

Attendance percentage



Number of weeks

*Attendance did decline in week 3 due to a period of ill health.*



Outstanding Progress for All

# New College Leicester

Learning & Sports Village

## Other projects have included:

- **Magazine Club KS3.** Three DMU students have run a small magazine project in the Library after college each Monday for 6 weeks. The magazine was then professionally printed by DMU.
- **Dance club.** A volunteer from DMU has run a weekly dance club after college attended largely by K.S.3 students.
- We trained over 70 primary mentors who went into our partner primary colleges.
- Eight of our DMU volunteers will now act as trainers for new projects across the city.

## Leicester University Ambassadors scheme – 7 volunteers – 30 hour placement.

Students from Leicester University undertook a 30 hour project in our History, Maths and Science faculties. These range from providing individual and group support to presenting specific modules of work to groups of students.

The students provide valuable academic support to the work of the faculty and offer our students an insight into university life thus raising aspirations of students.

## O2 Telephonica – 30 volunteers for four days.

We continue to work with Telefonica on an “ad hoc” basis as part of their “Think Big Day” volunteering programme. Teams of O2/Telephonica executives come into college to help largely with the allotment project. This year they funded and built the hen run and assembled the hen house. Currently we have two hens, Cookie 2 and Annabelle, who are looked after by a small group of dedicated students. We are supported by staff from Gorse Hill Farm Park who will be training students in caring for our hens.



## Princes Trust – 20 volunteers for a fortnight. 24 students involved.

We completed a successful project with the Prince Trust Team 107 in conjunction with 24 Year 7 students. The Princes Trust come into college to deliver a literacy based project to our Year 7 paired readers. The 18 team members split into three teams to plan and deliver their programme. After each



Outstanding Progress for All

# New College Leicester

Learning & Sports Village

session we de-brief the teams and they return to base to re-draft their plans. On the final Thursday afternoon the Princes Trust plan and fund a celebration and award event for our students.

At the teams graduation, our project is was again voted the best experience of the 18 week programme. This year two staff attended the graduation ceremony at the Guild Hall.



In total we have had over 250 students involved in our projects this academic year with over 140 volunteers supporting our work in some capacity - many have been involved in more than one project.

Seven of our DMU volunteers won awards for their work with us in the 'Square Mile Celebration' event held in May, with one student winning a major award for her volunteering work with us.



**Final note**

The team would like to thank all the staff who have supported us this year and who have been so positive when approached for help and allowing students on placement.