

Schools Active Movement



HAPPIER



HEALTHIER



MORE
ACTIVE

Case study of effective practise

Please note:

- *This should be for work wider than the SGO role and not School Games related.*
- *Commercial concerns should not be promoted.*
- *This will be shared across SAM.*
- *Please attach a picture that can be shared publicly*

Complete as many boxes as possible – it is not mandatory to complete all

Organisation: Christchurch School Sport Partnership
Main Contact and role: Dan Moody – Partnership Manager
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DATE: 17th December 2020



Focus on:

Happier / Healthier / More Active (please select) – applies to all

Context (background info, what is the project about, what were you trying to achieve?)

The aim of the Sovereign Award was to support the personal development of confident and proud community driven young people. We wanted to provide students with the opportunity to develop a range of skills including decision making, leadership skills, communication, creativity, resilience and confidence. The project targeted young people from lower socio economic backgrounds and students on the edge of disengagement. The plan was to run this as a pilot at The Grange School with a view to rolling the award out across the Twynham Learning MAT and then the wider Christchurch Partnership.

What actions were taken? Who was involved? What did you do? What did it look like?

The award began with an application and recruitment process which opened on the 9th September 2019 and closed on the 20th September 2019. We went through a difficult selection process to work out which students would benefit most from the experience and accepted thirty five students for the academic year – thirteen students from year 8, eleven from year 9 and eleven from year 10.

The successful applicants then experienced a ten week leadership training programme where they had the opportunity to work with high quality practitioners in the business and sports industries. We had visits from paralympians Kate Grey and Aaron Phipps, visited Bournemouth University and spent a day at Rockley Water sports to experience sailing, kayaking and raft building.

Following the initial training programme our students embarked on projects in three teams – a Youth Parliament, an Event Management Team and a Business Enterprise Team. Along the journey they were supported by a community mentoring programme working with partners such as Twynham Learning, Sovereign Housing and Active Dorset. Running alongside the projects was a credit based personal development journey. Students were required to commit to their own personal and academic achievement whilst actively contributing to the community. The aim was for our students to acquire skills and learn behaviours which not only helped them to develop as individuals but as drivers of change for others. Students were encouraged to spend time on self-reflection, evaluation and goal setting. Our students earned points for achievements throughout their personal development journey which ultimately determined whether they achieved the award. The awards are Bronze in Year 8, Silver in Year 9 and Gold in Year 10 so that students can progress each year. We also introduced the following awards for outstanding contribution in each year group - Active Citizenship Award, Excellence in Student Leadership Award, Innovation Award, Young Ambassador Award, Student Government Award.

The video of the Sovereign Award can be found here - <https://youtu.be/N0jpY000-y4>

Resources - What was used, how they can be obtained? National programme or local/own resources?

The project was funded by the local housing association Sovereign Housing. As the award expands to other secondary schools and a primary version, we will produce a pack to enable the roll out of the award in different settings.

What was the impact on participants? What have been the positive impacts of this work on the young people?

The Sovereign Award project has been a great success and we are very proud of the commitment students made. The Sovereign Award is developing this year with a primary version and other secondary schools introducing the award.

There are many success stories and here is one example. Lyla is one of our year 10 students. She has previously shown potential as a sports leader in the way that she communicates and leads small groups of younger children, but hasn't had the opportunity to really take charge of a project. Through the personal development sessions with Kate Grey and Aaron Phipps she really grew in confidence, so when it came to the project groups we asked Lyla to chair the meetings and lead on the Dare to Believe Sports Festival where ninety children from local primary schools came to The Grange. Lyla led the planning and supported other sports leaders to deliver a brilliant event.

***89% of our students said they felt more confident since taking part in Sovereign Award
71% said they felt closer to their neighbourhood since taking part in the Sovereign Award***

Young person quote:

Lyla said "The Sovereign Award has given me belief in my own abilities. I now know that I have the qualities to lead a team and to create great opportunities for younger children to take part and enjoy sport. I have really enjoyed the experience and I am proud of my achievements".

What was the impact on the school? i.e. have they changed their offer or the way they deliver it? Which priorities has it impacted on?

The award is about student leadership across the whole school, not just in sport. The Sovereign Award has become an important offer at The Grange School and is being used as a tool to develop young people who can make a positive contribution to the local community they live in. There was a requirement that students committed to positive behaviours and attendance in order to complete the award. We took some students who were not displaying these and observed a change in behaviour as the award went on. We saw a reduction in on-calls, detentions and improved attendance in some students.

We have learnt lessons along the way and refined the expectations and the way students evidence achievements to help collect more robust data for the 2020-2021 year.

Headteacher quote:

The Sovereign Award is important to pupils at The Grange School and this is clearly demonstrated by the increased number of applicants for the award in 2020-2021. The award helps our young people to develop their leadership skills and self-confidence. It also helps them to connect in a positive way with the local community, and for the local community to understand what we do at The Grange. Our students experience an incredible range of activities through the Sovereign Award and we are very proud that they choose to go above and beyond what is expected of them.

Top tips: What were the key things that made this work?

Support from the MAT, school and local partners. Having a well thought out and detailed planning process which involved consultation with the MAT CEO, head teachers, heads of year and SENDCo. The award has become part of our wider leadership pathway. Appendix attached.

Next steps? How are you embedding and sustaining the activity? How are you extending and developing the impact of this work?

I have presented to head teachers across our partnership to make the Sovereign Award a permanent pathway taking place in both primary and secondary schools. Meetings have taken place with each school. The proposal has been accepted and we will launch the wider project from January 2021. We have more partners involved in the project this year including Active Dorset and Dorset Mind.