

Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award

Delivering in 2020



The Award with its cross-school connectivity and community action elements of delivery and the initial residential outdoor course, in August/September 2020, is unable to be delivered the 'usual way'.

We have, however, identified how we can move forward to delivering this important programme in the year 2020/21.

We have laid out a programme which will continue to address the needs of 6th year students, and our communities, and to develop the same skills and understandings we have been so successful in doing for over 20 years.

Our recent evaluation also demonstrates that the programme can not only continue to address the attainment gap, but which has now also been shown to aid resilience and mental welfare in teenagers – two extremely important issues in current society.

We have also been fortunate enough to have engagement with past participants from the Award, who have also recently told us that the longevity of the Award outcomes has been beneficial long after Award participation, and indeed has helped many of them in dealing with the additional challenges they have faced during the current pandemic.

For these reasons, the greater MSLFLA team believes that not only *can* we deliver an Award programme, we have a duty to do so in the communities we serve.

The Award in 2020/21:

As a youthwork organisation, the Award is once again engaging 6th year students, with the help of school staff from our partner schools. Groups of students will work together to create project groups. Project groups will be created in-line with Government guidelines for youthwork and CLD, and respectful of local practice, from several schools in our clusters from across the Central Belt.

We will then deliver the training and team project elements in the first phase, with project teams being formed and led by Leadership for Life Project co-ordinators, working with a small number of community partners on community action projects. These may be in association or support of existing projects, as teams' ability to fundraise will be different from previous years.

The intention is that this phase will start in the late Autumn and take place over the winter, and will conclude the project management and team formation elements of the Award.

These successful and active teams will go through the team support and individual and team development phase in the Spring. This will comprise instructor led and student led adventures in the outdoors highlighting the participants' ability to achieve when challenged and promoting a growth mindset and a solution focussed and co-operative and supportive approach to problem solving and working with others.

At this stage it is unknown whether these adventures will be on a daily basis over a short period of time, or whether they will be able to run as expeditions, or even a short residential, but we will endeavour to establish the atmosphere of positivity when challenged and mutual acceptance and support that has been a cornerstone of the development of self-belief and increased robust mental wellbeing in our past participants.