**THE MARK SCOTT LEADERSHIP FOR LIFE AWARD**

**This document sets out as clearly as possible what measures we ask schools to provide in support of the Award and their pupils participating in the Award.**

We evaluate the Award annually from both the input perspective and the outputs, and the Trust produces an evaluation report to demonstrate to our funders the effectiveness of the Award. We are proud to say that the experience is very effective for participants, but we are also continuing to develop ways of improving it.

Relaunching the Award In 2020 for the next 3 year phase we are focussing on the inputs to the Award at this time.

**REMOVING BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION – RETAINING A LOW ADMIN FEE**

We continue to work hard to remove as many of the barriers to participation as possible to ensure that the Award is open to all pupils, especially those that have most to gain from taking part. This includes reducing the cost to the young people and their families to an administration fee of only £30 per place.

**This fee represents approximately 1.9% of the cost per participant**. **We have had to increase it slightly in recognition of our increased costs.**

We are aware however, that this low fee can make it easy to under-value the £1600 value of the experience we provide for each participant.

**CLARIFYING COMMITMENT AND VALUE**

We have also developed our Terms of Engagement document (attached) in order to move away from the ‘Contract’ used previously, but more importantly to make it as clear as possible what we are asking pupils to consider well before they take part, and to help them appreciate the cost/value of what is being proposed.

**IDENTIFYING THE MOST POWERFUL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR LEARNING**

We have also looked at the larger factors affecting the impact on the young people taking part, both to recognise them, and also to find ways of replicating across the board some of the conditions that we can see create higher impact for the young people.

They are:

* Informed involvement of school staff including Champions
* Careful choice of participant
* Good, relaxed, and positive relationships between Project Co-ordinator and participants
* Perception of value in students, from their own understanding and from attitudes to participation within the school environment.

We have therefore created a new ‘Participation Agreement’ (attached) for each School which outlines the measures we feel participating schools can take to maximise the impact of the Award on their participants, and we are asking Head Teachers and Champions to sign up to this.

And

Renewed the ‘Champion Charter’ document (attached) which gives guidance on creating the best environment for deepest impact for participants

**LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD**

First taken into Schools over 25 years ago by introducing Head Teachers to the Award, we are very aware now that many Head Teachers, and a high proportion of staff within most of our schools are now unaware of the Award. It doesn’t really impact the schools very much, and there is no cost to the school. We are also aware that we are talking about small numbers for schools, and finally the experience doesn’t compare well at surface value against a trip to Africa for instance.

The Award can be easily overlooked because of these factors, but we ask schools to be minded to the individuals who have had life changing experiences with us during their 6th year.

**It might also be appropriate to suggest at this stage that a school involved for 15 years, having an average of 2 pupils a year take part would have had around £48k invested by the Award in their pupils. (a high proportion of participating schools)**

When we have the right pupils through a careful recruitment procedure, who are well prepared and supported by knowledgeable Champions and other school staff, and where this results in us working with young people prepared to fully enter into the spirit of the Award, the results can be quite remarkable for the participants.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS?**

We are asking schools to renew their commitment to the Award, in a way that will hopefully provide greater understanding both of the Award, it’s’ value, and the ease at which we can maximise the impact of the Award for their pupils.

* We are spreading best practice through the renewed Champion Charter
* We are informing school management by asking Head Teachers and Champions to sign the Participation Agreement, and to inform their schools.

Thank you for your support – please use these documents to help focus your support in producing higher levels of impact in your pupils’ experience.