

School Engagement

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES



Cranford Community College - Transforming a community



“You improve a child’s chance of a successful life when you focus on making the school and the community, of which it is part, outstanding.”

Kevin Prunty
Executive Headteacher
National Leader of Education
Cranford Community College

Why is it important to engage with schools?

- ▶ Ready built network of young people and families
- ▶ Facilities for hire and use
- ▶ Inclusiveness
- ▶ Bring energy, creativity and dynamism
- ▶ Breaking down barriers
- ▶ Help young people to be successful



Why is it so difficult?

- ▶ Schools focus on academic achievement
- ▶ Significant budget cuts have impacted on extra-curricular and enrichment activity
- ▶ Schools are inundated with opportunities
- ▶ Finding the right person to talk to
- ▶ Not seen as a priority





Local Trust | Big Local

'BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER'

HESTON WEST BIG LOCAL DOCUMENTARY

Some strategies to increase your chance of success

- ▶ Timing
- ▶ Pay for a school/ Big local liaison person (£2000)
- ▶ Think about the benefits for the school
- ▶ Duke of Edinburgh / NCS volunteering opportunities
- ▶ Start with a project you know will be successful
- ▶ Ask if you can have a stall at fairs etc (activity not leaflets)
- ▶ Ask if you can have a stall in the dining room
- ▶ Use local knowledge to identify the best staff member to approach
- ▶ Personal introductions always work best

New OFSTED Framework

- ▶ The curriculum extends beyond the academic, technical or vocational. It provides for learners' broader development, enabling them to develop and discover their interests and talents
- ▶ The curriculum and the provider's wider work support learners to develop their character – including their resilience, confidence and independence – and help them know how to keep physically and mentally healthy

New OFSTED Framework

- ▶ the provider prepares learners for life in modern Britain by:
 - ▶ – equipping them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society
 - ▶ – developing their understanding of fundamental British values
 - ▶ – developing their understanding and appreciation of diversity
 - ▶ – celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law.

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We currently work in partnership with these schools...



And finally.....

► Keep on knocking!!



Elevator Pitch

- ▶ In pairs discuss for 5 minutes how you are going to make that door open
- ▶ One person in the pair will have 30 seconds to make an elevator pitch to persuade me to work with the Big Local



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Alan Fraser
afr@Cranford.hounslow.sch.uk

