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**Voice and Influence within Leeds SILCs**

**2019/20**



The Voice, Influence and Change Team have been working in partnership with staff from the Lighthouse School, west SILC, Broomfield SILC, North West SILC and East SILC during the 2019/20 school year to provide opportunities for students to have a voice and influence within the city.

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| **Make Your Mark**  https://symbols.widgitonline.com/widgit/col/211x126/bycc/English_UK/ballot/NOUN/Sg/30840500090000000.sym.png?showPlurals=0&showPronouns=0&showDemonstratives=0&showImperatives=0&skinTone=1Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation in the UK for 11 to 18 year olds. Young people are given a list of 10 issues and asked to vote for the **one** issue they feel is most important.  In 2019; 120 students from East SILC, Broomfield SILC, North West SILC and the Lighthouse School completed the Make Your Mark issue.  The top two issues were stop street harassment and protect the environment. The national campaign for young people in the UK was voted as protect the environment, the Leeds Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament are working on the campaign locally, regionally and nationally. |  | | **Takeover Challenge**  https://symbols.widgitonline.com/widgit/col/211x126/bycc/English_UK/meeting/NOUN/NoTags/30840100260000000.sym.png?showPlurals=0&showPronouns=0&showDemonstratives=0&showImperatives=0&skinTone=1On the 25th November 2019; 10 students from West SILC, NW SILC and the Lighthouse School took over the SEND Partnership Board as part of National Takeover Challenge.  Students worked together to chair the meeting and presented to the board their achievements in the last 12 months, an update on Make Your Mark and then informed the board about the things that have supported them growing up in Leeds and what could have been better. The board and students worked together on suggestions for how things can be improved for CYP with SEND in the future. |
| **U:\VOICE AND INFLUENCE\1. YV Groups\SEND\Compass House\3. Christams 2019\Social Media Posts\Photos\choir 2.jpg\\netapp04-cifs\lcc002\corp\VOICE AND INFLUENCE\SEND & Local Offer\SEND Partnership Board Takeover\SEND Partnership Board 25.11.19\photos\018.JPG** | | | |
| **Debating**  https://symbols.widgitonline.com/widgit/col/211x126/bycc/English_UK/debate/ADJ/VProg/20840100140000000.sym.png?showPlurals=0&showPronouns=0&showDemonstratives=0&showImperatives=0&skinTone=1On the 9th October 2019; 12 students from the Lighthouse School, East SILC, North West SILC and West SILC took part in an inter-SILC debating competition at Leeds Civic Hall.  The motions they discussed included:   * All driving/flying should be banned to help stop climate change. * Junk food should be banned for children * Social Media should be banned for Under 12s   The competition was opened by Cllr Salma Arif, Deputy Executive Member, Children & Families who also presented the winning teams and best speakers with their certificates. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were so enthused and knowledgeable about the topics being debated that some of them volunteered to take the place of absent students and gave amazing improvised performances that impressed everybody present. |  | | **Democracy Sessions**  https://symbols.widgitonline.com/widgit/col/211x126/bycc/English_UK/democracy/NOUN/Sg/30840500360100000.sym.png?showPlurals=0&showPronouns=0&showDemonstratives=0&showImperatives=0&skinTone=1In 2017; students from the SILC’s expressed an interest in knowing more about politics and voting. The Voice and Influence Team have developed one hour long Democracy Sessions that are delivered in the school setting. The sessions give students the opportunity to learn about the Council, City Councillors, voting and an introduction to debating.  In the 2019/20 academic year the Democracy Session was delivered to 18 students at John Jamieson and 7 students at the North West SILC. |
| **Compass House Project**  https://symbols.widgitonline.com/widgit/col/211x126/bycc/English_UK/work%20experience/NPHRASE/NoTags/30570050130100000.sym.png?showPlurals=0&showPronouns=0&showDemonstratives=0&showImperatives=0&skinTone=1The Compass House project is a partnership work experience project coordinated by the Voice and Influence Team in partnership with the Lighthouse School, North West SILC, West SILC, East SILC and Broomfield SILC.  From September to December 2019 students from across all the settings with support from staff met to plan their Christmas pop up shop, the students make all the decisions about the shop, create all the products to be sold and then work in the pop up shop. The 2019 pop up shop opened for five days week commencing 2nd December 2019 in Kirkgate Market. Students had a great week, they took part in radio interviews and also performed Christmas Carols to promote the shop. | | | |
| **SENate**  https://symbols.widgitonline.com/widgit/col/211x126/bycc/English_UK/event/NOUN/Sg/30840020000000000.sym.png?showPlurals=0&showPronouns=0&showDemonstratives=0&showImperatives=0&skinTone=1Over 80 students with SEND and staff from across all schools in Leeds had booked to attend the SENate event which was due to take place at Leeds Civic Hall on the 24th March 2020. The SENate is a consultation event which provides services in Leeds to consult with students about services they deliver and developments as well as a learning workshop for students on the national campaign for young people, protecting the environment. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 the event was cancelled. It is hoped the event will be re-organised in the next academic year. | | **Social / Fun day**  https://symbols.widgitonline.com/widgit/col/211x126/bycc/English_UK/social/ADJ/NoTags/40010200150000000.sym.png?showPlurals=0&showPronouns=0&showDemonstratives=0&showImperatives=0&skinTone=1Students who were previously part of the SILC Parliament had expressed an interest in having a social / fun day to enable them to socialise with students from across the other specialist learning settings in Leeds.  North West SILC with support from the Voice and Influence Team put in a funding bid to Children in Need for £3,900 to host the ‘Breeze SEND Fun Day’.  The event would have provided an opportunity for students to work on their social skills as well as physical skills. However, due to COVID-19 the project was not funded. | |

**How students have benefitted**

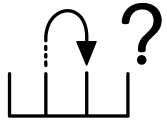
By taking part in the various voice and influence projects students have grown in confidence and gained valuable skills such as team working, organisational skills, employability skills, increased awareness of voting and democracy as well as making friends from across the city.

**Thanks to Staff**

Staff within the SILC’s have provided students with the support and encouragement over the last school year to take part in the voice and influence opportunities that have been made available to them. The successes from the last 12 months would not have been possible without them.

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| Jo, West SILC  Nick, West SILC  Mia, Farnley | Sally, Lighthouse School  Natalie, Lighthouse School  Michael, NW SILC | Jamie, East SILC  Sophie, East SILC  Emma, Broomfield SILC |

**Next Steps….**

Due to COVID-19 the partnership voice and influence work across the settings has been put on hold. The Voice and Influence team are hosting a zoom meeting with staff on the 9th July 2020 to plan the forthcoming projects and opportunities.

The annual programme of projects and opportunities which will be discussed include:

* Compass House work experience project
* Make Your Mark ballot
* Debating competition
* Takeover of the SEND Partnership Board
* SENate consultation event (two a year)
* Democracy Sessions
* Social / Fun Day