

TOWNLEY GSL REPORT



CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE



This report shows the accomplishments and progress made by the Global Social Leaders of Townley Grammar School, who aim to help contribute to the achievement of gender equality and believe in education for all people.

{TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES}

As there were eight of us, we decided to split the presidential roles between us. By doing this, we could individually oversee specific aspects of our projects which helped us execute them with acumen. Our team members can be broken down to fit the following roles:

Teachers: Mrs Pandya and Ms Farag

Yasmin Shameem – Head of Syrian Book Bank Initiative (keeps track of own initiative)

Nana Muazu – Head of Women in Politics Initiative (keeps track of own initiative)

Amira Ahmed and Britney Bioh – Head of Deki Loan Initiative (keeps track of own initiative)

Lily Kemp – Secretary (dealing with communications between the society and external people, such as emailing companies, teachers and tracking our progress)

Grace Olusola – Initiative Consultant and Key Stage Four Ambassador (working with the heads to produce the best possible outcome, providing ideas and an outside point of view as well as carrying out tasks to contribute to the initiative)

Gloria Asiegbu and Grace Sodunke – Initiative Consultants and Key Stage Three Ambassadors (working with the heads to produce the best outcome, providing ideas and carrying out tasks to contribute to the initiative)



Whilst these roles are our primary responsibilities, we all help each other carry out each specific task to keep the communication going and everyone informed.

{ THE PROJECTS }

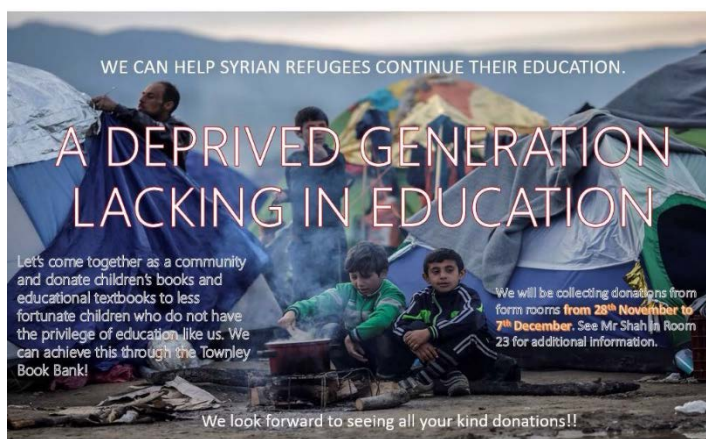
SYRIAN BOOK BANK: The Syrian Book Bank is a project assisting young people in war-torn countries with their education. In December 2016, we asked all students to donate books they have that are not in use to the school, gratefully amounting to a large number of donated books. We are currently in the process of shipping them to establishments in developing countries to aid in schools and make a contribution to the education of intelligent young people.

AIMS:

- Assist young people in war-torn countries to continue their education
- Raise enough money to ship the books to a deserving destination
- Continue this project annually
- Expand it to different countries in the future

As stated in Global Goal 4, we believe that all people should have a quality education, and this project makes sure that young people with fewer opportunities are equipped with the knowledge to obtain a job and get their families out of poverty. We are currently fundraising for the shipping costs, starting with a teacher's coffee morning on the 21st March.

IMPACT: Our impact was mostly shown in the number of books received and the number of people motivated to give. We gave an assembly to each year group (7 to 13) advertising the Book Bank, and the impact was shown in their response. One student said: “The book bank was a way that the school community showed great compassion.”



We have accumulated over 450 books including textbooks, children’s books, teen books and non-fiction. Through this project, the school has displayed compassion for children in poverty, a social conscience for the issues prevailing in the world today, and integrity as we strive to ensure all young people are getting the same education in developing and developed countries. The number of hours spent on the project also shows impact, as a lot of lunchtimes were taken out to move the books, and many students from the upper school helped us organise and move the books. Our efforts were also showcased to the wider community via Townley’s Global Learning twitter page.

SETBACKS: We still have yet to ship the books, though we have accumulated enough to make a valuable impact on the lives of the young people in the refugee camp. Though we are working hard to raise money, it is difficult to raise enough funds and have the resources to send the books.

NEXT STEPS: we hope to achieve all of our aims by acquiring the funds needed to ship the books either to a refugee camp in Chios, Greece, or another camp in need. This can be done by contacting a wide range of people and organising further fundraisers so that this can be completed as quickly as possible.

DEKI LOAN SCHEME: Deki Loan is a project ensuring female empowerment in developing countries, something we learnt about during our training at Wellington College. We knew that this would be a useful thing to introduce to our school. The idea is that we raise money for specific women to elevate their business and once enough money has been raised for her, she will generate more profit which will eventually be given back to the school. It is aimed at Year 7 and Year 8, with each house in both years working together in a house competition to make it more exciting and incorporate the school house system along with this. Each house is assigned a woman who signed up for a Deki Loan, and they are encouraged to raise as much money for her as possible. By doing this, we hoped that the students have felt motivated to raise money for their person.

PROJECT AIM:

- To empower female entrepreneurs in developing countries, linking to Global Goal 5.
- To encourage the younger students to feel passionate and have leadership opportunities of their own

By raising money for women to expand their businesses, we can ensure that we are aiding women, even globally, to create a better life for themselves as they strive to attain their goals.



The Deki Loan projects have so far accumulated around £500

IMPACT: Our impact can be shown through the project's popularity with Key Stage Three. Nondini, a year 7 student, reported: "I believe Deki Loans is a great chance to give someone another chance to provide for their family." This project enables the lower school to develop their compassion for women globally, and Global Leaders to display their leadership as they guide their house through the fundraising process. The success of the charity events have embodied several formats including cake sales and the sponsored onesie fun run. To us, this project has had a considerable impact as many people participated and appreciated the opportunity to actively have a global influence through social action as well as displaying their creativity by coming together to fundraise for a worthy cause.

OUTCOMES: One of the outcomes of the project was to connect the year groups and facilitate discussions between likeminded people so they improve upon each other's ideas and help each other. It has also allowed them to inspire, and be inspired as they plan their fundraisers, collaborating with one another to give female entrepreneurs the opportunities they deserve. The project is not completed yet, therefore specific figures of how much was raised have not yet been added, but based on their work they are working hard to contribute to their global community and having fun doing it.

SUCSESSES/ FAILURES: Initially there was difficulty in organising meetings to discuss the Deki Loans project and check that all the groups were making progress due to lack of planning and other commitments, such as academic obligations. This is definitely something to learn from. However, we managed to become organised and make time (even if it was 15 minutes of lunch) and set tasks to the groups so that they were working even when the whole committee were unable to meet.

FUTURE PLANS: Based on the interest of the younger years, it would be useful to make this a sustainable project and run it annually so that young people can develop an interest in their global community and social action.

WOMEN IN POLITICS: The Women in Politics project is a project that aims to empower students to be the change they want to see in the world. We wish to contact the Mayor of Bexley, Eileen Pallen, and the Deputy Mayor of Bexley, Val Clark (along with the MP of Erith and Thamesmead Teresa Pearce and MP of Tooting Rosena Allin – Khan) to speak to students and educate them on the importance of politics. We wish for these female politicians to speak to Year 10 and Year 11 as they are at a pivotal point in starting to think about career choices. We know that only 29% of MPs are female and through this project, we aim to try to change that and many more injustices regarding women in politics.

PROJECT AIMS: Educate students on the importance of politics in order to encourage students to engage in this topic, linking to Global Goal 5.

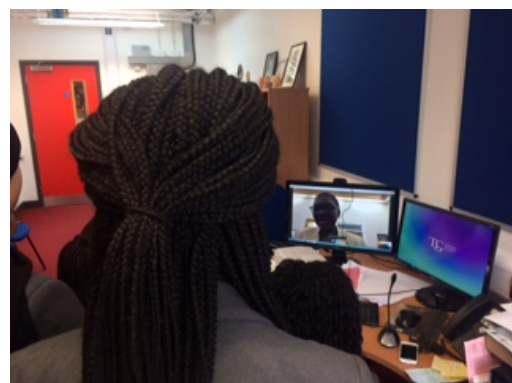
- Be more aware of the vast amount of career choices available, and even develop some students' passion for politics.
- We want students to be inspired to believe that they can break stereotypes and strive to be the best they can.
- Invite MPs to give talks regarding the need for women in politics.

Through these honourable speakers giving these talks, in order to progress this topic, we want this topic to be discussed during Personal Development sessions and form time in our school, and continue to do assemblies regarding this topic. Through this, we want to develop students' ability to inspire through their future career, as well as display the courage to break the barriers of gender inequality.

SETBACKS: We have not yet received any replies from the female MPs that we have emailed, however we know that perseverance is important in accomplishing goals and we hope to secure an MP to inspire the young women in our school in the future. We understand that there is a strict rule in the House of Commons that MPs may only respond to the substance of communications from their own constituents and Townley may fall outside of their constituency. As well as this, MPs are very busy and no MPs have yet responded to our emails. In order to overcome this, it is key that we are persistent and email as many female politicians as we can. Our GSL coach,

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

We had a Skype call with Baroness Amos, a former Townley student and role model to many, to gain wider insight of the status of women's role in politics so far and get advice about how we can pioneer as young women to change society as we know it. It was an eye-opening experience and we gained a lot of knowledge as well as inspiration and made a great start to International Women's Day on 8th March, which is when the call took place.



Owen, also gave us the idea of trying to get MPs from different parties to speak at a competitive debate.

ADDITIONAL MINI PROJECT: QUESTION TIME

Though this project was not ongoing, it was a chance for us to find out what the school really think about feminism and the role of women in society (as it aligns with our overall goals), as well as a good indicator of how much people care about the subject so that we could see the areas that needed to be tackled the most. The best way to do this, we thought, was to organise a BBC “Question Time” style debate, in which the overall question “Is Feminism Outdated?” was asked on International Women’s Day on 8th March.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT: We were able to see a range of people from a range of year groups attend to listen to the debate and hear from a panel of educated and passionate people with a range of opinions. We believe that the impact is shown in this alone. The panel included our head teacher Mr Deehan, an English teacher, two members of the upper and lower sixth form and three members from years 10 and 11. The contrasting opinions made for an interesting debate that encouraged people to talk about feminism and sparked further debate for the rest of the day. This was advertised in GSL assemblies in which we also introduced ourselves to the school and we were pleasantly surprised by the number of people that attended.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM EXPERIENCES SO FAR:

As Global Social Leaders, one of the ways we wished to carry out our aims of promoting global goal 4 and 5, was to engage with the students that attend our school and target our projects to involve them. It was definitely a moment to highlight; we were able to see that we had succeeded in engaging other students. This was due both to the collection of hundreds of books people donated to give to Syrian refugees and the impressive turn out we received at our Question Time of over a hundred students and teachers attending to watch and participate.

It was also an honour to be given the opportunity to speak to Baroness Amos and hear wise words directly from her. Baroness Amos spoke very articulately while being extremely friendly and welcoming, answering our questions with honesty. Initially, we wished to invite Baroness Amos to deliver a talk to students because she is a woman who holds many accomplishments to her name including becoming the first black woman in a British cabinet, the Secretary of State for International Development and subsequently, leader of the House of Lords. It was amazing that Baroness Amos agreed to participate in a Skype call, which we also shared with our peers. Her wise words, ‘if you are willing to work hard for something, the sky is the limit’ showed us that if you set your mind to achieve something you are passionate about, nothing can stand in your way; this inspired us greatly and was a notable highlight.

FUNDS/IN KIND DONATIONS SECURED

Through our discussion with our head teacher we were able to talk about the continuity of the GSL society in the future. He helped us to think up ideas to aid in the funding for the shipping of the books to Chios. We organised a coffee morning for teachers to raise our target amount of money. Our head teacher was also kind enough to sponsor the remaining amount of money required, however due to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to raise the exact amount of money. This is an area that we are still working as we are currently trying to contact companies for possible donations.

{ SKILLS WE HAVE LEARNT FROM OUR PROJECTS }

- Teamwork
- Organisational skills
- Public speaking skills (assemblies)
- Communication skills
- Time management
- Delegation
- Compromise

{ KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM OUR PROJECTS }

- All change starts with education, but most specifically education of young people
- If you have a passion for something, and you are willing to work for it, regardless of how hard it is, nothing can stop you
- Community action starts with a small group pioneering and standing up for change
- Team work and delegation is the most efficient way of completing tasks

We feel that we have achieved a considerable amount due to our training and our passion for social change. With a combined effort of 83 members (Years 7 to 13), we hope to carry forward our plans for each initiative, and collaboratively develop new ideas, fully utilising the resources available in the school.