



Newsletter to schools Autumn 2020

Dear LSL School link

It continues to be a strange time for all of us but a very challenging time for anyone connected with schools. We hope that things are progressing reasonably well for you and your school despite all the uncertainty around. We thought it was time that we gave you an update on what LSL has been doing in the past months.

1. Volunteering Platform

Livery Schools Link (LSL) has been working on its volunteer platform to encourage links between members of Livery Companies and schools for just over 4 years now. The product has worked well but it became clear that we would need some staff if we were to expand throughout the UK. We have therefore decided that the best way forward from here was to seek partnerships with other organisations in the field. We are delighted to announce that we have agreed to go into partnership with two independent charities, Speakers for Schools and Inspiring the Future. These two organisations are well established and will provide exciting opportunities for volunteers helping to increase the employability of students in education. The two charities work with publicly funded schools and colleges mainly in areas across the country where the young people come from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. To access our volunteers, all schools need to do is ensure they are signed up with both Speakers for Schools and Inspiring the Future charities – benefiting from the wider volunteers they already have combined with members of Livery Companies and Guilds. The services from both these charities are also free of charge to schools! Speakers for Schools Website is <https://www.speakersforschools.org/> and Inspiring the Future is <https://www.inspiringthefuture.org/>

2. Livery Education Conference Save the Date

The next Livery Education Conference is planned for 9 March 2021. We have booked the hall at the Merchant Taylors' Company again where we were last year but it is looking increasingly likely that we may have to go for a virtual event by Zoom. The conference will take place in the morning and we will be sending out more details of the event in the format we feel is most appropriate to offer early next year. The event will end by 12.00 whichever format we use but we will make it a longer event if we are able to be face to face.

3. Livery Showcase Save the Date

The Livery Showcase is planned again to be part of the London Careers Festival. The Guildhall in London is booked for July 5-7 2021. The secondary school

Showcase for years 8 and 9 is on Tuesday 6 July and the primary Showcase is on Wednesday 7 July. Apprentice 21 for Years 10-12 will be on 5 and 6 July. It is likely to be a hybrid festival next year with some events on line but hopefully some events face to face.

The 2020 LCF was held virtually in the last week of June. 72 different schools made bookings for Webinars, 91% of which were in the Greater London area. 2500 secondary school students were booked and 300 primary school students. The resources on the LCF website were accessed by 296 schools. The Website remains active and can be accessed at <https://www.londoncareersfestival.org.uk/>

4. Digital Divide Campaign

LSL launched a fundraising campaign in July among the Livery Companies and their members to help buy devices and connections for disadvantaged students in schools who have limited or no possibility of working online. The digital divide has been around for a long time and the Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the problem with many students from disadvantaged backgrounds being unable to access online schooling. The campaign has already attracted over £51000 in donations and this has enabled us to support 15 schools to help their students who cannot get online at present. <https://liverschoolslink.org.uk/the-digital-divide/>.



This newsletter has contained some details of our forthcoming events and we hope very much we may see you at the Conference or at the Showcase with some of your students. Please be in touch if we can give you further details on things.

Best wishes from the Livery Schools Link team.

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