



**Hands on learning  
that helps drive change**



**What a year!** This academic year has been one of the most challenging for all students, but particularly those who were already on the periphery of mainstream education. Speaking to our students, we know almost none engaged with homeschooling, and feelings of isolation and depression have been significantly heightened.

The GASP team worked immensely hard piloting new activities, course lengths and engagement methods to ensure each student received individual support, relevant to their strengths and interests. Despite our forced closure, almost 170 young people attended throughout the year, with over 80% achieving AQA accreditation.

**We are always delighted to welcome funders and supporters to GASP, to see first-hand the impact of their contribution to the charity.**

We were excited to welcome High Sheriff of Surrey Dr. Julie Llewelyn to the GASP workshop in May, where she spoke to the students of Jubilee High School. Dr. Llewelyn's theme this year is Every Child Included. It was great how our young people opened up to her about how the pandemic and lockdown have affected their learning and perspective on future education and vocational opportunities.



GASP also received a visit from Dennis Pillay and Caroline Davies from the Walton Charity, who gifted a grant for GASP sessions for young people in Elmbridge. They met students from our new mixed cohort group and found out how attending GASP boosted self-confidence and self-esteem, as well as learning how a two-stroke engine works!



## Welcome to the Team!

We are delighted to welcome Alex Pettit as a new member of the tutor team! Alex started with GASP as an evening session attendee when he was just 14! Alex was the GASP Champion at the 2016 McLaren awards, and GASP Ambassador the following year. Alex has represented GASP at many events including Shere Hill Climb, Lions awards and most notably at G-Live when he and Sally Varah were on stage for a Q & A session! Alex became a Young Adult Helper in 2019, supporting James Martin at the Monday sessions.

He has been working with Howard and Lucy at Woking Police station with groups of young offenders, with excellent feedback from the staff team and our own Chair of Trustees, Ian Watson. Alex will continue to work with us during term time when he can, whilst he completes his Motor Mechanics course at Brooklands College.



Following on from the local council elections in May, we were delighted to welcome new Councillor for Shere, Robert Hughes to the Workshop. Bob and our CEO Alex are already known to each other as Bob is also CEO of Sight For Surrey, and they have attended a number of events together. It was wonderful to have opportunity to tell Bob more about GASP and some of the struggles our young people face, particularly in light of the pandemic and subsequent periods of lockdown.

As detailed in previous newsletters, we have been transforming our syllabus to better tie in with the national and STEM curriculums. We have extended the number of learning activities and increased the number of AQAs available. As part of our marketing strategy, we wanted to create a new prospectus to promote the new syllabus and were absolutely delighted when design team [www.dannyand.co](http://www.dannyand.co) said they would help. The final publication is far beyond anything we could do ourselves, and is a fantastic, professional brochure detailing what makes GASP so great.

<http://gasmotorproject.org/prospectus/>



Following on from her visit to the GASP workshop, we were delighted that Dr Llewelyn mentioned us when invited to be the papers guest on BBC Surrey! You can listen to her interview by clicking on the icon below:



BBC Surrey 21.05.21  
part 1.m4a

Our CEO Alex was delighted to be invited to take part in the High Sheriffs' Summit on School Exclusion, held at Royal Holloway University. Attended by senior staff within education, Surrey CC, the Police and charity representatives, the event identified practical actions and partnership working which will facilitate a reduction in the number of YP excluded from education in Surrey. It is an excellent initiative which GASP is extremely honored to be involved with.

The last academic year has been a challenge for all charities needing to raise vital funds. GASP is extremely grateful for the continued support of all the trusts, foundations and grant givers who enable us to continue working with Surrey's deprived and disadvantaged young people.

This term we have been delighted to receive notification of funding awards from the following organisations. We are absolutely thrilled to have been so successful and thank each of the grant assessors, trustees, and clerks for their commitment to challenged young people and to providing a brighter future for them.



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

The Hilden  
Charitable  
Fund

The Mrs Smith  
& Mount Trust



This year has been extremely challenging for so many people, but particularly the young people we work with. Many have presented with additional support needs and challenging behaviours. Many have mental health needs and have had negative experiences heightened and exacerbated because of the pandemic and periods of lockdown.

The GASP tutor team have worked amazingly with these young people, supporting their additional needs and engaging as mentors and positive role models, whilst also sensitively managing the need for PPE and covid-related restrictions. The GASP Board and CEO are extremely grateful to them, and the support team, for their commitment to the organisation and the young people we work with.