



**Hands on learning  
that helps drive change**



# December 2021



This new academic year has started absolutely brilliantly! We are so incredibly grateful to our funders, stakeholders and young people who make working at GASP such a joy! We have had on-site visits from friends and supporters and welcome those who wish to see first-hand what happens in the GASP workshop. We are also joined this term by three fantastic new members of staff – keep reading for more information!

The **GASP Evening Youth Clubs** attendees have had a great start to the year, attending Shere Hill Climb, Greenpower qualifier at Dunsfold, and then the Greenpower international final at Goodwood! We have welcomed new members who have really gotten involved and helped secure excellent placements at the races. The Wednesday group were delighted to have a visit from John Taylor of Weldmet, who introduced them to welding! We remain incredibly grateful to our fantastic volunteers Rob, Bruce, James and Alex for their relentless enthusiasm and commitment to GASP.



In September, we were delighted to receive a visit from the new **Police and Crime Commissioner, Lisa Townsend** and Deputy Commissioner, Ellie Vesey-Thompson. As a key funder of GASP, it was great for Lisa and Ellie to talk to our young people and see the work they do with us. The students were really enthused to engage and talked about the practical learning they do and spoke about possible vocational opportunities. Many thanks to Trustee, Bob Pickles for attending too.





Like so many charities, the last 18 months have been extremely challenging for GASP. The team have worked tirelessly to ensure we are able to respond quickly and effectively to the evolving needs of our young people. We were absolutely thrilled to receive a **Lieutenancy Certificate of Recognition** for establishing new ways of working in a COVID-world. GASP Patron, and Deputy Lieutenant Sally Varah MBE, presented the award to the tutors, support team and trustees during a session being delivered to Jubilee High school.



Whilst we always take time to fully describe our activities in applications and reports, the impact of what we do can never be fully articulated in the written word. Thus, we were delighted to welcome Louise Norris from the **KFC Foundation** and Alison Grue from **Charles Russell Speechlys** to the workshop. The students are always happy to speak about their positive engagement with GASP and talk about their education journey with us.



**Big Leaf Foundation**  
Helping displaced young people belong and grow



Partnership working is a key element of ensuring the young people who would most benefit from the GASP hands-on learning, have access to it. This year we worked with **Big Leaf Foundation** to support their annual summer school. Big Leaf provides activities and events which focus on combatting social isolation for displaced young people in Surrey.

Twelve young people attended the GASP workshop for five days in August. The group was split in half, with each completing a motor mechanics activity and an ESOL teaching session. Co-Founder and Programme Manager, Kayte Cable stated the GASP course offered her young people the opportunity to:

- *experience practical education*
- *practise English, both in terms of general communications skills and language directly relevant to the tasks*
- *reduce social isolation and provide focused meaningful activity at a time when many experience increased loneliness and anxiety*
- *achieve a recognised qualification as well as experience which can be noted on personal statements / application forms*
- *build their own knowledge in an area that might be new to them, or already of interest.*

When asked if she would choose GASP again, she commented: *"Yes, yes - one hundred times yes. The staff are brilliant, the opportunities to use a wide variety of skills were appreciated by everyone, the young people felt at home and welcome (sorry about the hole in your teabag tin!), the chance to go-kart was an absolute high point, and every single young person asked if they could come back!"*

We can't wait until next year!

## Welcome to GASP!

We are delighted to welcome three new members to Team GASP!

### **Andy Thacker** Operations Manager



Andy Joins GASP with a wealth of expertise, having worked at New College Swindon, UTC Reading and Guernsey College. Andy's previous roles as Curriculum Manager – Engineering, Automotive & Electrical Installation, and Director of Engineering mean he comes to us with a wide understanding of subject, but also a great insight into the needs of our young people as well as knowledge of educational and vocational progression pathways. Andy will be working to enhance and expand our learning curriculum, as well as developing our operational strategy.

### **Amy Lee** Fundraising and Business Development Manager



Having worked for Eikon, Lifetrain Trust, and the Royal Surrey County Hospital as a Fundraising Manager, Amy has a fantastic understanding of the needs of Surrey's young people. She brings to GASP extensive experience of income generation through grant and trust partnerships, high net-worth individuals and corporate engagement. Amy has organised many fundraising and marketing events and has extensive links within the third sector. Amy will be implementing the GASP fundraising and marketing strategy, specifically multi-year funding, events and partnerships

### **Sam Jones** Executive Assistant



We are delighted that Sam is joining us, having worked previously at Rodborough and Loseley Fields schools as Finance Assistant. Having worked in mainstream education, Sam has first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing schools and their pupils. She understands the needs of young people and the value alternative provision gives. Having implemented new financial systems and administrative procedures, Sam is brilliantly placed to streamline the GASP office! Sam is working with our bookkeeper Carmela, to transition us to XERO and simplify our finance function and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the GASP office.

It is with great sadness we said goodbye to Trustees **David Davis DL** and **Adam Duce** this term. David has been involved with GASP for over 14 years, and has provided invaluable support, knowledge, and expertise. As a Chartered Civil Engineer by profession and member of Surrey County Council, including two years as Chair, David brought an unique blend of engineering, local authority and social knowledge to the board.

Adam Duce joined GASP at the beginning of 2019. His position as Deputy Head of English at Godalming College, as well as the college's Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Officer has meant he has been instrumental in developing many of GASP's policies and assisting in its strategic direction.

David and Adam remain great friends of the charity. The Board, Patrons, and Staff thank David and Adam for all they have done to support GASP.

We were delighted to welcome Jane Peacock from **The British Motor Trade Association Trust** to the workshop this term. The BMTA provide grants in support of welfare need in the motor industry, and support children at state and independent schools. In addition, the trust also provides financial support for young apprentices training and development needs. During our discussions, we spoke about GASPs hope to raise funds to replace the existing 'green room' with a new IT classroom and wellbeing space. Jane was incredibly positive and, following a formal application process, we were delighted to receive £10,000 towards the project!

We continue to fundraise for the outstanding amount, but are incredibly grateful to Jane and the trustees for their investment in the future of Surrey's young people.



It has been a truly exceptional term, particularly considering the previous year. Demand for GASP courses is higher than ever and, whilst excellent evidence of the impact we have, it is also reflective of the real need for alternative provision to support those whose existing disadvantage has been further exacerbated by the pandemic and periods of lockdown.

Meetings with representatives of Surrey Youth Justice, Academy Trusts, and Short Stay Schools ensures the GASP provision continues to meet the ever-evolving needs of Surrey's young people, and the GASP board have committed to investment in our provision and operational delivery.

Our staff team continue to work incredibly hard and our minimum staff /student ratio of 1:3 means we are able to tailor learning to the individual and our partnership with the MATRIX trust facilitates mental health support for some of our most vulnerable attendees. This will be further enhanced with our new IT and wellbeing space.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your engagement with the charity, and support of the work we do.

***We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a bright and healthy New Year.***