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# Practitioners Panel

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## Tackling Disadvantage: Case Studies of Successful Schools

Wendy Tomes (CEO) & Claire Turpin (Headteacher)  
Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry LA

Marc Rowland  
Head of Rosendale Research School, Lambeth LA

# Tackling Disadvantage using Pupil Premium

Sidney Stringer Academy



**Sidney Stringer  
Academy**



**Sidney Stringer  
Multi Academy Trust**

# Our credentials

- Pupil premium 45.01% compared to the average of 28.7% nationally
- EAL 82.1% compared to 16.3%
- SEND 18.8% compared to 10.7%
- Deprivation 0.39 compared to 0.20
- Progress 8
  - +0.25 All
  - +0.21 PP
  - +0.32 EBACC
  - +0.39 Maths
  - +0.11 English
- Flagship for Inclusion
- World class
- National Pupil Premium Award regional winners 2015 and 2017
- A levels in Maths and Science better than Eton!

# Our credentials

## State schools eclipse Eton in new A-level science table

Rosemary Bennett Education Editor

Provincial grammar schools and a new breed of specialist free school have emerged as the unsung heroes of British education in an A-level league table that ranks schools on their science prowess. Top spots in the table have gone to boys' grammars, including Reading School, King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, in Birmingham, and Sutton Grammar, in Surrey.

Ilford County High School, a selective boys' school in Essex, is one of the big climbers when evaluated on a Stem (science, technology, engineering and maths) ranking. It comes 237th in the country when looking at overall A\*-B performance but is at 17 when looking at performance in science subjects.

New free schools backed by universities to specialise in science are also serving their pupils well. King's College London Mathematics School, which opened in 2014, comes top of the new table compared with an overall A-level ranking of 24th. A similar free school in Exeter, sponsored by the city's university, comes fourth compared with a general A-level ranking of 168. Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form Free School in Norwich and Sidney Stringer Academy in Coventry also posted strong results.

However, some of the country's best known schools did less well. Eton College, famous for producing prime ministers and leading politicians, was

### Top performers

*Schools that jump significantly in the Stem table*

✦ Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form in Norwich, 90th in Stem table, 721st in overall A-level ranking

✦ Herschel Grammar in Slough, 92 compared with 347

✦ Harris Westminster Sixth Form, 64 compared with 276

*Schools that perform well in both*

✦ Tiffin Girls' grammar in Kingston upon Thames, 9 compared with 8

✦ Westminster School, 5 compared with 10

ranked 109th compared with 9th in the national A-level league tables. Lady Eleanor Holles, a girls' independent school in southwest London, falls from 19th to 160.

Heather Hanbury, the school's head mistress, said the number of pupils taking Stem subjects there and achieving top grades was growing every year. "In a school where well over 60 per cent of sixth formers take Stem subjects and where we are investing heavily in computing, robotics and technology, we be-

lieve the future for Stem at LEH is fantastic," she said.

The Stem league table was compiled by Your Life, a government-backed, business-funded campaign to promote the sciences and make sure the economy has the skills for the future. The data was compiled by Starcount, a marketing and customer research company led by the creators of Tesco Clubcard, on behalf of Your Life.

Edwina Dunn, chairwoman of Your Life and chief executive of Starcount, said the general league tables rewarded schools for grades rather than subjects, even though this was not what businesses need nor where jobs would be.

"It's time to recognise these 'unsung heroes' of Stem in our school system. Your Life's Stem ranking highlights a whole section of schools that get overlooked in conventional rankings, when you look at grades alone," she said. "There are schools up and down the country that are doing a great job in preparing their pupils for the job market today and in the future."

By 2030, 71 million jobs in the UK will rely on science skills, according to the Science Council, 1.3 million more than today. The tables' weighting of the Stem subjects gives prominence to maths and physics which research shows will lead to the best paid jobs as companies pay a premium for such skills. It also favours schools where a large proportion of pupils are entered for Stem subjects.

# Leadership

- Senior leader – strategic lead . Not a bolt on – a real role
- 3 Strands - intervention, support, enrichment
- Link to all leadership roles
- SLT agenda
- Leaders held to account at all levels – appraisal used a lot to support this (if partly funded from PPG money – then accountable)
- Keep up to date - go and find out what is happening
- Become a PPG reviewer if your school is in a position to be eligible - you learn so much
- How proactive are governors - are they robust? Is there evidence for this in minutes ?
- PPG students well represented at student leadership level - house captains/prefects/head boy/girl
- Track some PPG students for the day –powerful
- Speak to the PPG pupils and ask them what they need

# Ethos

- Do staff genuinely believe the need to positively discriminate?  
“we need to help all kids” comment
- Do teachers know who the PPG students are?
- Do you induct new staff about your ethos and expectations?
- Is it tied in to your T&L agenda?
- Successful outcomes for PPG students do not happen by chance - you have to plan
- Is it a mad rush in year 11 to close the gap for 5 years learning or is your PPG strategy from year 7?

# Support for pupils

- Large team of LSA's with robust monitoring, CPD and LSA standards
- Additional EWO time
- Invest in pastoral staff and give them time -Non Teaching HH and assistants
- 3 compulsory parental meetings a year with tutor
- Counselling/Autism/ Ed Psychologist/CP /Family lead/ Learning mentors
- Free breakfast
- Students have their own text books in Maths/English/Science so they can take them home
- Chrome books or iPads
- Aspirations – careers programme
- ACE/alternative provision

# Intervention

- Smaller class sizes (over staff in key areas)
- Targeted T&L strategies ie questioning (seating plans), mark PP books first, compulsory homework
- LSA partnership agreements which target PP students
- Progress of PP students tracked closely by faculties and APs
- Clear monitoring and referral systems (weekly meeting)
- Meetings after exams with HT, VP, subject lead report includes PP results
- Holiday/after school/tutor time intervention – students expected to attend and pastoral staff help to get them there.
- High quality literacy programme - AR, LSU placements and interventions
- Personalised timetable and 1, 2 or 3 year curriculum model
- A significant amount of curriculum time for core subjects
- Departments can bid for additional resources to support PP students



# Enrichment

- PP attend trips at a heavily subsidised price and often for free
- Wide range of extra curricular and not just sport
- Careers fair for all Y11s including individual interviews
- Junior university
- Master classes
- University residential
- Trips to Rome and Athens for classics students
- Lots of rewards assemblies, evenings and trips

# Want to know more ?

- We offer PPG reviews- personalised and practical rather than judgemental (normally 1 day but 2 of us)
- Come to visit us at Sidney Stringer for a tailored made package to suit your needs

[wtomes.staff@sidneystringeracademy.org.uk](mailto:wtomes.staff@sidneystringeracademy.org.uk)  
[cturpin.staff@sidneystringeracademy.org.uk](mailto:cturpin.staff@sidneystringeracademy.org.uk)  
[Vhastie.staff@sidneystringeracademy.org.uk](mailto:Vhastie.staff@sidneystringeracademy.org.uk)

CEO Sidney Stringer MAT  
Head Teacher  
Head of Teaching School