

Innovation in Education Award

SIGHTBOX

With the National Statistics standing at 85% unemployment for the visually impaired (VI) and on average 5-6 less friends than their sighted peers, there is a real need for innovation in education to challenge and change these statistics. The SIGHTBOX has been generated at St. Vincent's school for VI as part of that challenge, and as part of a whole school project.

The creative strengths of St. Vincent's pupils are channelled into designing access to sports technology to facilitate inclusion, participation and friendship generation impacting on health and wellbeing. The ideas designed by pupils supported by Liverpool Hope University and Liverpool John Moore's University 'service-learning' volunteers are placed as content for the physical SIGHTBOX including such ideas as a 'boccia grid' a 'running line' and 'I Rugby Ball' alongside the traditional 'ball with a bell'. A surrounding curriculum links participation with entrepreneurial learning enabling pupils to demonstrate their employability and connect with further content design and research.

In collaboration with Rotary International and supportive school networks Nationally (supporting Social Moral Spiritual and Cultural/ Citizenship curricula), SIGHTBOXES have been bought and sent to VI schools from St. Vincent's including Pakistan, India, Rwanda, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Kenya, Indonesia, China, Ethiopia, Nepal , Tanzania, Virgin Islands and Peru . St. Vincent pupils acting as the 'trainers of the trainers' are using communication technologies (facilitating thus more research and development in this area) to teach the overseas VI student peers how to use the content. Using the surround curriculum overseas schools are now asking St. Vincent's to collaborate on making more sightbox content ideas generating new trade innovations in synergy with UN SDGS 17.3.4.5.8.10. Simultaneously, St. Vincent's pupils are teaching local and national VI pupils how to use the content and working collaboratively to break down barriers towards inclusion.

SIGHTBOX has been invited to present at the next International Rotary Convention in Germany 2020 as a means to share its growing impact stories and attract international Rotary support, thus connecting Liverpool as a centre of excellence for innovation, research and development in teaching and learning for the Visually Impaired.

