

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Partnership Award

Names of institutions involved in the partnership

Great Yarmouth Primary Academy & the University of East Anglia

Brief Description

UEA and Great Yarmouth Primary Academy have embarked upon a long term partnership with the objective of fostering a culture of reading and literacy development among pupils, as well as providing valuable training and experiences for UEA School of Education students. GYPA is situated in one of the most deprived wards in the county, ranking high on every deprivation measure. The partnership involves reading mentors, reading resources and in school enrichment opportunities, to drive up Key Stage 2 reading and writing results.

Why has this project been nominated

Our collaboration between Great Yarmouth Primary Academy (GYPA) and the University of East Anglia is a long term commitment to transformational change, with a shared vision of nurturing young minds through the joy of reading. Over the past two years our joint efforts have yielded remarkable outcomes, significantly impacting the reading habits and academic success of both GYPA and UEA students. The need is very real - the Nelson Ward of Great Yarmouth, where GYPA is located, is the most deprived area of the town and adult education levels sit at some of the lowest in the country. GYPA achieved the highest outcomes the school has ever seen in KS2 SATs results this year. These were national average (71% and 73% respectively) in writing and maths and hit the national average of 59% combined in reading, writing and maths. However, the work needs to continue. The national average for reading results this year was 73%, whereas our pupils only achieved 58%. Reading is the limiting factor in our end of KS2 results and remains a limiting factor in data across the school. The key feature of our programme are reading mentors, where UEA School of Education students mentor and engage with primary school students in reading activities. This intervention is complimented by at home reading packages and in school literacy workshops and events to foster a whole school change.