



Partnership of Equals 12th October 2018 Evaluation

Mulberry Schools Trust's first Partnership of Equals conference took place at the QEII Conference Centre on 12th October 2018. The conference brought together 400 young people from schools across the UK, including London, Manchester and Somerset, to explore themes of gender inequality, with the arts as a key focus.



Aim 1: To raise awareness of gender inequality among young people.

- 79% agreed that Partnership of Equals made them more aware of gender inequality.
- Participants said they learned that "we have adapted to our stereotypes so much we think it is normal" and that they were inspired to "defy people's expectations of me just because of my gender"



Aim 2: To explore how the arts can deconstruct and find creative solutions to inequality.

- 90% agreed that the conference showed them how the arts can support gender equality.
- Participants said they were inspired to "take more daring acting roles" and that in dance they "wish that men could try elegant movements and women do lifts".



Aim 3: To bring together young people and diverse role models to engage with and learn from each other.

- 91% agreed that they had seen positive role models on stage at the conference.
- Participants said "it was lovely to see so many empowering men and women today" and "it is good for boys to see the breadth of roles that women can inhabit."



Aim 4: To enable young people to become leaders and advocates in creating a more equal world.

Participants said they were inspired to:

- "Raise awareness of the inequalities between genders."
- "Be more accepting of others"
- "Get my male friends to express their emotions more"
- "Disobey gender".
- Show "compassion in leadership as well as decisiveness".



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The work continues...

The conference closed with an activity asking participants to commit to an action for gender equality. They wrote these commitments on postcards which were posted to them two months later to remind them of their goals. We will ask teachers to tell us about their students' achievements so we can share their stories on our website.

So far, the Partnership of Equals student leadership team at Mulberry School for Girls have planned and delivered follow-up projects to continue the legacy of the programme, including:

- Gifting a copy of the 'Letters to our Daughters' student poetry anthology to Michelle Obama.
- Sharing their learning about gender and LGBT+ equality in assemblies for Years 7 to 11.
- Writing an article about the conference which appeared in the school newspaper, The Berry Bugle, and on the Female Lead website.
- Designing badges and a quiz to raise awareness of their chosen charity, Stonewall.
- Conducting a teacher survey and subject audit on gender and LGBT+ equality.
- Creating a display about gender equality.