



# HMCK Charity

Promoting aspirational partnerships in education

Volume 1 | Issue 1  
October 2021

## Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter designed to give you, other friends, and supporters an insight into what we have been doing since our formal registration as a charity in February 2019

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## *Our Aims*

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Our purpose is to promote, support and facilitate the continued creative development of partnership (O&P) education programmes between state and independent schools.

We aim to work with schools and their staff who share our commitment, to their mutual benefit by working collaboratively, discovering new ways for independent and state schools in partnership to provide education and development opportunities to all pupils and staff involved whatever their background.

## Public Benefit

The Trustees act in accordance with the guidance notes issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The charity will contribute to social mobility by improving educational opportunity and the wellbeing and attitudes of staff, parents, and pupils from all social backgrounds associated with the schools we support.

## Initial Priorities

Once charity registration had been achieved, we ensured that we had in place:

- A sustainable structure with prerequisite Governance in place
- Adequate funds to support selected programmes
- A functional website and presence on relevant social media sites

- A network of and relationships with like-minded institutions

We were therefore well positioned to launch our first application process as we moved into our second year in the Spring of 2020. However, that coincided with Covid.

## *Our 1st Year*

### **Covid and 2020**

In 2020 Covid blew the charity off course as the whole education sector was forced to refocus and address the many immediate and unprecedented challenges the pandemic created. Significantly for us, funding applications from partnership programmes or new initiatives were put on ice.



We therefore looked at other ways, consistent with our objectives, where we could help the disadvantaged with their education and mitigate their learning problems. Lockdown forced a greater pupil reliance on remote online learning and laid bare the stark variation between pupils' home-learning environments. Clearly, poorer pupils had more limited hardware and internet access and therefore were less likely to have home environments conducive to such learning.

We were concerned the "digital divide," the gap between those with and those without sufficient access to technology, would have a much greater impact on learning opportunities during the pandemic and beyond.

## *Our 1<sup>st</sup> Campaign*

### **Transforming Life Chances Campaign**

In September 2020 the Charity launched its "Transforming Life Chances" campaign to raise funds to buy laptops for some 300 highly motivated pupils from less fortunate backgrounds at four state schools within the Wimbledon partnership in southwest London. These were Ricards Lodge High School, Raynes Park High School and Harris Academy, Wimbledon in the borough of Merton and Grey Court School in Richmond.

Proudly in early 2021, thanks to our fundraising efforts, we donated £7000 to each of the 4 schools to buy computer hardware for deserving pupils whose education had been severely compromised by home schooling

This venture was consistent with one of our overriding aims namely to ensure talented under-privileged pupils at participating state schools are encouraged and equipped to maximise their potential by overcoming traditional barriers or learning constraints.

*"This would be a game changer for a student and their family."*

Rob Liyanage,  
Assistant  
Headteacher, Raynes  
Park School

*"I would like to extend a huge thank you from everyone at Grey Court for your incredible support, we are all blown away by it. Our students are extremely grateful for the IT support and the huge benefits that this brings in terms for their learning, engagement, and progress. The difference is like switching on a light, switching on a child's learning, suddenly they were submitting work and catching up with lost learning. It will literally ensure our students can engage, make progress and crucially achieve the best outcomes for their future. We can't thank you enough."*

Tom Gordon Walker, Assistant Headteacher, from Greycourt School

## *Our Year 2* 2020 and Beyond

Despite Covid, the Charity reopened its Grant application process in Spring 2021. We are delighted that our Educationalist panel have selected 4 partnership projects which we will be supporting from the beginning of the 2021/22 academic year. These are well spread geographically involving programmes in Kent; Surrey; the Thames Valley and the West Midlands.

These winning partnership projects were:

- CCF music initiative from Tile Cross Academy and Solihull School
- A Secondary School Transition Project from Sevenoaks School in partnership with 30 state schools in Kent
- A biodiversity project from Thames Valley Learning Partnership (TVLP)
- A 'Book Clubs in Schools' project from King's College School and Southmead Primary

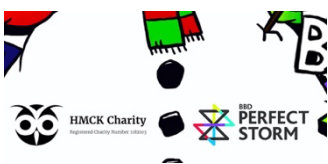
Our website will feature details and progress.

*Thank you!*

## OUR THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped us get to where we are today. We have been supported in a multitude of ways.

- To the **100+ donors** who donated to our Transforming Life Chances campaign
- **James Turner** of the Sutton Trust, **Julie Robinson** CEO at Independent Schools Council (The ISC) and **Angelo Sommariva** head of the System Partnerships Unit, Dept. for Education, all of whom gave wise counsel on the charity's development
- For the financial support of **King's College School**, **The Sutton Trust**, the **GC Gibson Charitable Trust**





- To **Jason Foo** and the **BBD Perfect Storm** design agency for making us their 2020 Christmas Charity
- To **Jeremy Mercer** who undertook a gruelling sponsored 'virtual cycle' ascent of half of Everest to raise funds for the TLC campaign
- To the **van Tulleken family** for their generous support and warm words about Heather
- To members and staff at **Royal Mid Surrey and Royal Wimbledon Golf Clubs**
- To **Graeme Dacomb** who, in his year of Captaincy at RWGC, chose the HMCK charity for his charity golf day which provided us with a generous financial starting platform
- To a **TMT Investment Company** in the City for their generous donation
- To **Lucy Kane and her team at Time and Leisure Magazine** for their support in promoting our Transforming Life Chances campaign
- To **John and Jackie King** of Andrew Scott Robertson for their support and use of their conference facilities for our various meetings
- To **Stephen Hammond MP**, for his warm message of support

**Heather's mission was to eradicate the link between educational opportunities and social background, so that young people get the chance to fulfil their potential, regardless of their family background, school or where they live. The Charity's work pursues this vision.**

**The HMCK Charity was registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (reg no 1182103).**

All activity costs associated with the registration of the Charity were met by the founding Trustees and no fees or expenses were submitted by any Trustee or member of the leadership team during the year.

If you wish to make a donation or set up an annual payment arrangement, please visit the following page on our website. <https://www.nowdonate.com/checkout/the-hmck-charity>

**PLEASE NOTE** You have received this newsletter as you have kindly supported the HMCK charity and or expressed an interest in being kept informed periodically of our activities. We have assumed that we have your consent to retain your contact details on our secure database which is not shared and will only be used to update you on the charity. You are free to withdraw such consent at any time by sending an email to [info@hmckcharity.org.uk](mailto:info@hmckcharity.org.uk). Upon receipt we will remove you from our records.