

Bright Stars – Developing Cumbria’s future leaders

Information for Schools

We are so pleased your school is participating in the Bright Stars programme. To ensure that your school, teachers and pupils have the best experience possible we have compiled a list of ideas and expectations as part of your involvement in this project.

How does Bright Stars work?

Bright Stars is an award winning 12-week programme that runs as an exciting competition with 8 weeks trading period aimed at primary school children across Cumbria.

The programme is funded by local businesses and local grants and is FREE for schools. The programme is open to any age and year group, and we leave this for the school to decide who would most benefit from this learning experience.

Depending on the size of school this can be a whole class or as a whole school.

The programme has to be manageable for each school and the business mentors but we do require schools to commit sufficient time to the project each week with a minimum commitment of an hour each week.

Your school will be matched to a local business, one that has requested to work with you and support your pupils throughout the project.

Schools receive £50 seed funding with a simple instruction, for pupils to set up their own mini social enterprise over the course of 12 weeks and, through creativity, grow that investment.

The £50 can only start to be spent in the official 8-week trading period however the weeks leading up to this is where the business you are matched with can really help the pupils develop their ideas and approach it like they would a mini business.

The pupils enterprising ideas need to address an issue they want to make better in their local community or half the profits made to go back to their cause or a local charity.

Schools and business mentors, once matched, need to:

1. Attend a ‘virtual’ intro meeting where CforLP staff will talk about the programme.
2. Then arrange a ‘virtual’ or face to face meeting to:
 - a. introduce each other and share contact details on the information gathering sheet template;
 - b. discuss the support the business support can offer;
 - c. arrange suitable dates and times for your business mentor to visit your school and work with your pupils to set up their social enterprise business; and,
 - d. discuss whether all visits will be face to face or a mix of face to face and virtual.

Your matched local business will be responsible for:

- Visiting your school, face-to-face or 'virtually', on average, once a week throughout the competition.
- Introducing the Bright Stars concept if they don't already know and how they are going to help.
- Talking to the pupils about their business and introduce them to members of their wider team.
- Using the resources provided by CforLP to help the children understand what a social enterprise business is.
- Helping your pupils to brainstorm their enterprising ideas and how they want to make a difference.
- Helping your pupils develop a business and marketing plan; talk about profit and loss and develop a plan on how the £50 could be best managed.
- Supporting your pupils to develop their product/ service.
- Supporting the pupils to sell their products/ deliver their service.
- Completing the pre and post evaluation surveys with the pupils.

We recommend that your mentors start working with your pupils 3 to 4 weeks before the actual trading period so the children can really maximise their time in the trading period and hit the ground running. This may mean that the business support is more intense at the start of the programme and maybe less frequent during the trading period, but we expect the businesses to stay in touch throughout.

We encourage schools to have a dedicated lead within the school and ensure that sufficient time is given to the school lead to prepare and make the most of their involvement. This is most likely to be the teacher whose class is participating in the project.

Please be aware that businesses help to fund the programme and also volunteer their time to work with your pupils, so we want to ensure that they, as well as the school, have a positive experience from taking part and very much see this as a way of forging ongoing links with the school beyond the trading period.

How to maximise the Bright Stars programme within your school:

The Bright Stars programme was co-created with local businesses and the Primary Heads association over 11 years ago and, as such, links to the curriculum. Schools that get the most out of the programme have embedded the activities into their day-to-day curriculum lessons. For instance:

- To support language and literacy, they have written letters to local businesses to ask for donations to support their social enterprise; completed their weekly updates; pitched their ideas to local businesses to gain support or to the business mentors board room staff increasing spoken language as well as reading and writing skills.
- To support numeracy and mathematics, they have looked at the costs of materials, worked out profit margins, used weights and measures to make their products, increasing their understanding of the importance of maths in the real world.

- To support art and design, the pupils have designed and made their posters and logos to support their businesses.
- To support computing, they have used different software to design posters/ logos; used the weekly updates to upload photos and videos; used search engines to research products and ingredients they might need.

In addition, the Bright Stars programme has been designed to:

- Link to the PSHE curriculum (Living in the Wider World: economic wellbeing and being a responsible citizen).
- Develop all of the key skills required to be successful in the future: teamwork, leadership, creativity, staying positive, problem solving, aiming high, speaking and listening.
- Equip the pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Through Bright Stars the pupils will gain the essential knowledge they need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the real-life examples of how what they learn in school links to their future world of work, giving their learning a purpose to help them to fulfil their potential.

School/ Teacher expectations

Before the Competition

- Please complete the CforLP registration form (available [ONLINE HERE](#)).
- Send CforLP your school logo.
- Nominate a teacher within the school to be the main Bright Stars contact and add their details to the registration form.
- Tell us if you already have links to a particular business and want to work with them or if you have a preference to work with a business in a particular sector based on your social enterprise idea. We do not guarantee but will try our best to fulfil this request.
- Start to plan how you will run the Bright Stars competition within your school. Experience has shown that it is good to have a Bright Stars lesson each week when the business mentor(s) can come in and work with your children. This could be during the school day or as an after-school club.
- Start to plan how you might embed Bright Stars into other lessons during the school week for letter writing or designing logos/ posters.
- Attend one of the 4 virtual intro meetings – these are mandatory for all schools and businesses who take part. CforLP will run through an overview of the Bright Stars programme, key expectations, prize categories, completing website updates and the rules of the competition.
- Once you have registered and we have matched you to a business we will send you a login code so you can access the Bright Stars resources and lesson plans. You can use these to help you plan your sessions. You can start working with your business asap once matched but cannot begin trading as a company until the trading start date. We recommend that business mentors come in for at a few weeks before

trading starts to complete the upfront setting up a business part of the programme so you can start making your products/ service as soon as trading begins.

- Attend the optional online Social Enterprise Q&A event to kick start the programme. Talk to your pupils before this session and think up some questions to ask the entrepreneur.

During the Competition

- Plan as a minimum a dedicated hour each week to work with your business mentor on the Bright Stars programme. Please stick to this time unless it is absolutely unavoidable.
- Work with the business mentors to support them during their lessons. It is your responsibility to be part of the lesson and to ensure the children behave and complete the tasks assigned.
- Help the pupils, along with the business mentors, to make and sell their products or services.
- Help your pupils complete the online weekly update reports to CforLP on their progress throughout the competition – these will be available for everyone to view.
- Use the media pack to shout about your involvement in the programme.

After the Competition

- Join us for the Celebration Event. More details to follow.
- Trophies and certificates will be awarded for the best ideas and social enterprises.
- Complete the post evaluation surveys.
- Ideally, keep in contact with your business mentors after the competition finishes and develop an on-going partnership.

Bright Stars - in the business of making things better!

We prefer the activities to be like real businesses or campaigns to give the children as much authentic experience as possible of setting up and running activity.

Anything you can do to encourage your pupils to think in a commercial way will be hugely appreciated. However, never forget that the aim is to make this experience interesting, challenging, fulfilling and fun – just like business itself.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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