

2026



BRIGHT

STARS



Providing young people across Cumbria
with everyday leadership opportunities

Encouraging leadership and social
entrepreneurship from a young age and
developing relationships between Cumbrian
businesses and their local primary schools



CENTRE for
LEADERSHIP
PERFORMANCE

www.cforlp.org.uk



Who are the Centre for Leadership Performance?

The Centre for Leadership Performance (CforLP) is a not for profit organisation working to develop Cumbria's leaders for today and tomorrow. We work with educators, businesses and young people to create an inclusive lifelong leadership journey from primary school to retirement. We believe that supporting the talents of our young people is vital to the economy here in Cumbria. Bright stars removes barriers to engagement between businesses and their local schools to nurture a culture of aspiration and entrepreneurship and develop leadership skills.

NURTURING

What is Bright Stars?

Bright Stars is an award winning competition for primary school children across Cumbria. Each school receives £50 seed funding with a simple instruction to set up their own mini social enterprise, developing this and trading over 8 weeks and, through creativity, grow that investment. This year's objective is:

To make a profit and make a difference – to follow the very best examples of self-sustaining social enterprise

CforLP links a local business to its local school to offer guidance and encouragement throughout the trading period. Pupils will be judged on the ideas to grow the seed funding and ultimately make a difference to their world and the lives of people around them.



Over 2,600 pupils
have taken part in
Bright Stars
programmes
since April 2024

ASPIRATIONS





What is the aim of Bright Stars?

- Bright Stars gives children at primary age a programme where they can see the opportunities around them
- To create inclusive meaningful opportunities for children, schools and local businesses to work and learn together to develop sustainable partnerships
- To introduce leadership and social entrepreneurship from a young age in a fun and accessible way
- To raise the aspirations, confidence and self-belief of young people across primary schools in Cumbria as they showcase hidden talents
- To get young people excited about the world of work and gain an understanding of business and enterprise
- To encourage and nurture creative thinking
- To develop skills in teamwork and leadership from an early age
- To create careers awareness from a young age and link learning to local careers
- To empower children to influence change in their local communities

What is the impact?

95% of pupils felt they had learnt essential new skills

100% of business mentors said that they achieved what they wanted for their business/staff/ personally

100% of teachers want to be part of Bright Stars again

91% of pupils think they are a better team player and understand more about teamwork

100% of teachers achieved the outputs they wanted for their pupils from Bright Stars

100% of pupils had fun working on Bright Stars

100% of volunteers now felt they had a higher profile in the local community

"Bright Stars makes the world a better place and we have had fun raising money for charity."

Grasslot School Pupils

"It has given us more confidence in speaking in front of others, it has improved our artistic skills and meant we've had to consider quality consistently, we are better at working in a team and on IT skills."

St Pius X Catholic Primary School Pupils

"Bright Stars has meant a lot to us, from teamwork to budgeting, we have really enjoyed this project!"

Monkway Junior School Pupils

“We recently had Ofsted, who also noted the high level of learning that has furthered the children’s learning and enhanced our curriculum (from taking part in Bright Stars).”

Morland Area C of E Primary School Teacher

Long-term Impact

We recently filmed two Bright Stars projects that have continued to have a positive impact for the pupils, schools and communities many years after they ran their 8 week project. Scan the QR codes to watch these films:

**Victoria Junior School
Community Welfare Packages**



**Pennington C of E Primary School
Community Coffee Morning**



Cash Prizes

A panel of judges meet to go through the weekly school updates to decide on the 5 winning school projects, for:

1. Best team work, collaboration and leadership
2. Most profitable social enterprise
3. Best community engagement
4. Best and most positive long-term impact
5. Best logo and marketing campaign

Highly commended certificates are issued in each category too.

Benefits to your business

- Develop on-going links with local primary schools and local communities
- Connect young people to your business and make them aware of what you do
- Demonstrate your role in the community as a responsible employer
- Develop your own team in the process
- Connect your business with other Cumbrian organisations taking part in the scheme
- Helps raise the profile of your business
- Remove barriers to engagement with local primary schools
- Supporting the community through charity work, linking with schools and activities
- Helps deliver business social value performance metrics
- Business branding on all marketing materials
- Business name on the CforLP website and hyperlink to your business page
- Inclusion in any press coverage secured in the lead up to and following the competition
- Access to training and support throughout the programme
- Help shape the skills needed for the future

“A great opportunity to improve staff health and wellbeing and introduce new volunteers (including an apprentice) to outreach activities.”

Jake Huddleston, Atos

“Being involved with the local community and helping children understand different parts of business whilst additionally creating a positive impact which is memorable.”

Eva Llewellyn, AtkinsRéalis

Benefits to children and schools

- Raises the aspirations, confidence and self-belief of young people
- Encourages and nurtures creative thinking and helps to develop self-confidence as they showcase hidden talents in a fun, accessible way
- Gets young people excited about the world of work and they gain an understanding of business from an early age
- Develops essential skills in teamwork and leadership from an early age
- Encourages children to be active citizens in their local communities
- Links to curriculum topics and brings learning to life
- Creates careers awareness from a young age and develops children's interest in employment
- Develops ongoing links between primary schools, local businesses and the local community
- Helps schools to raise their profile and build positive lasting connections in their local communities



Our commitment to you

- We will work closely with participating schools and businesses to ensure everyone gets the most from their Bright Stars experience
- We will offer a blended approach with face-to-face and virtual meetings, making it easy for you to take part and connect with young people
- We provide support at every stage of the Bright Stars journey
- We offer access to Leadership Masterclasses
- Access to training and support throughout the programme
- We will provide a resource toolkit for employee volunteers, making it easy to be part of no matter what size your company
- All resources are aligned to essential skills



We will also...

- Match a school to a business
- Host virtual introduction meetings with schools and business mentors
- Set-up login codes to access your own school and business specific web portal to record your weekly updates
- Provide all schools taking part with £50 seed funding
- Host virtual partner meetings and events to share learning and best practice
- Provide lesson plans, information and guidance throughout the scheme
- Provide training to business volunteers who may not have worked with primary aged children before
- Create PR packs so you can celebrate and share your involvement
- Organise the celebration event, trophies and certificates
- Project manage the award winning programme which helps businesses of any size to get involved
- Deliver outcomes that will count towards your social value targets

The Bright Stars programme runs twice a year, which enables us to support more schools and work with more local businesses. These programmes take place in the Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter terms.

Key dates (Autumn/Winter)

July to September	Business and school registrations
September to October	Intro meetings
October	Tiny People Training Session
October	Social Enterprise projects launched
December	Social Enterprise project trading ends
January	Judging panel day
January	Winners announced
January	Celebration event

Key dates (Spring/Summer)

January to March	Business and school registrations
February to March	Intro meetings
March	Tiny People Training Session
April	Social Enterprise projects launched
June	Social Enterprise project trading ends
June	Judging panel day
June	Winners announced
July	Celebration event

Costs

The award winning programme is always FREE to schools and pupils.

We rely on support and sponsorship from businesses to fund the programme.

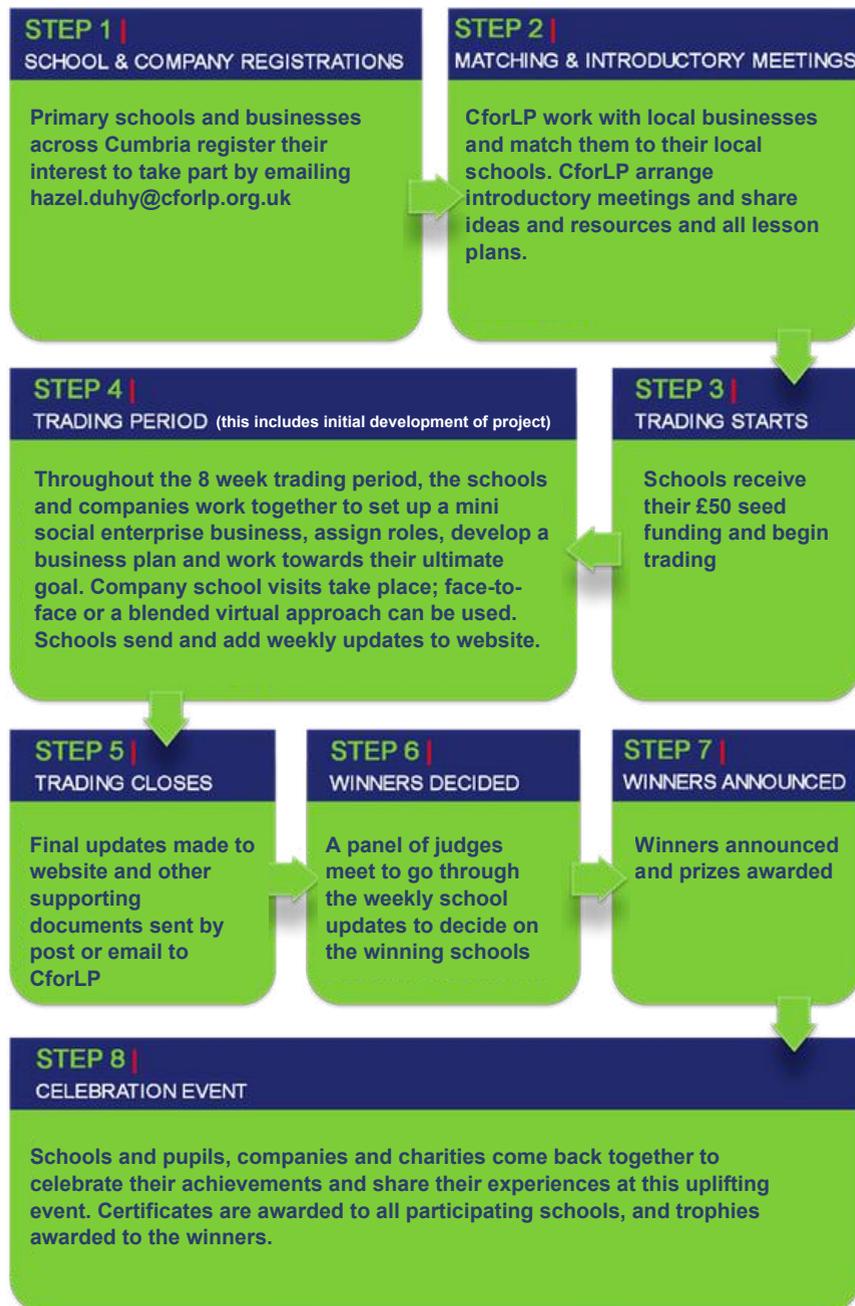
We have many sponsorship opportunities available and where possible seek to make this free for charities, third sector organisations and micro businesses to take part and help everyone to connect to their future workforce.

“Our employees, our business, our supply chain and partner interactions with children at a young age provide vitally important exposure to a range of roles and industries our young people need to understand that a wide range of opportunities are within their reach. I feel proud to work for a company that sees the value in activities like Bright Stars as more than just our own recruitment needs but as part of our social responsibility.”

Amy Lamph | Senior Project Professional at BAE Systems



Bright Stars in a nutshell



What businesses say



“The results and stories that come from Bright Stars every year help us create lovely and engaging content to share with our staff and stakeholders, so we’d like to thank you for arranging content and updates in a way that is easy to use.”

Isabel Rivera | Arup

“The positives from being part of Bright Stars includes learning together with young people and sharing the pride in our young community, as well as seeing the hard work and effort the pupils put into their social enterprise.”

Cristina Bowman | My Community Penrith



“Really happy with the whole process. Loved watching the children develop and was surprised at the end that some pupils had new ideas on what careers they might want to pursue after being part of Bright Stars! Was happy that the social impact side for the business was clearly met through Bright Stars and that personally the interaction with the pupils was always amazing and very proud of what they achieve.”

Lucy Higgins | Bechtel Cavendish Nucelar Solutions

“It was lovely to work with Victoria Junior School and I gained a sense of pride watching the children come up with the ideas right at the start following their visit to Jigsaw, right through to how pleased they were with themselves at the end – and rightly so! I was so pleased for them and proud of them.”

Vicki Lesley | Jigsaw, Cumbria’s only Childern’s Hospice



What schools say

"We would love to get involved with Bright Stars again as feel it provides great format and structure for holistic and practical learning."

Crosthwaite CE Primary School



"Children have worked very hard and have taken complete control of all aspects. I caught myself asking one of the boys on the finance team if I was able to spend £4 on some paper bags, which made me laugh!"

Monkway Junior School

"The programme has given the children an insight into what goes into running a business and the positive impact this can have on others."

Gosforth C of E Primary School



"It has enabled the children to learn what it really means to work as a team, not just getting along but listening and compromising too."

Penny Bridge CE Acadmey

"From a teacher's perspective, the impact of the Jigsaw Gems project (for Bright Stars) on the school has been incredibly positive. The project has brought together skills from across the curriculum – maths, literacy, art and PSHE – while also building confidence, teamwork and entrepreneurial thinking. Parents and staff have been genuinely impressed by the children's creativity and maturity, and the project has helped raise the profile of social responsibility within the school community."

Victoria Junior School



"Bright Stars has had a brilliant impact on our school, it has allowed the children in our Year 5 classes to become passionate about their business and their goal of bringing the community together. It has given them something to work towards and provided a common interest amongst all peers which has created stronger friendships and bonds between our year group."

Seaton St Paul's C of E Junior School

Get Involved

If your school or business would like to register their interest, speak to us about sponsorship opportunities or just find out more, please contact:

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For more information visit our website www.cforlp.org.uk/brightstars

Or...



Scan the QR code to find out more and sign up to take part in the Bright Stars 2026 academic year programmes



@CentreforLP



A collaboration between Cumbrian businesses,

Bright Stars 2024/2025 business mentors:



BAE SYSTEMS



NORTH LAKES
HOTEL & SPA



Atos



FORTH



educators and young people



FIRPRESS
DESIGN · PRINT · SIGNAGE





Thank you for the ongoing support from our Bright Stars partners in this and previous years...

Bright Stars 2024/2025 was supported by:



Bright Stars won a BAE Business Leader Chairman's Award under the category 'building a sustainable future' as well as an Outstanding Achievement Award in the Global Procurement and Supply Chain Awards, which provide teams across BAE Systems worldwide with the opportunity to highlight and showcase some outstanding accomplishments on an annual basis.

"To me, the activity that has gone into making Bright Stars such a fantastic offering really does bring out the best in how we can work together and collaborate to invest collectively in our local community. My 8-year-old daughter goes to school in the Barrow area and, from a very personal perspective, I am hugely optimistic that she and her classmates may have the opportunity to learn a little about how business works through experience and to know that opportunities for a diverse, challenging and rewarding career are a very realistic and achievable prospect in this area. This is more than a STEM engagement – it's about showing local young people that there are opportunities of all kinds all around them, and that these are within reach."

Neil Jackson | Group Senior Sustainable Procurement Manager at BAE Systems in Barrow



Some of the ways our primary Bright Stars pupils have made profit and a difference over the years:

Inglewood Infant and Nursery School pupils made healthy smoothies and baked healthy cakes to sell. The project made them think about physical and mental health.

Clifton Primary School designed and produced wrapping paper and gift tags to sell.

Crosthwaite CE Primary School created a seasonal nature magazine, which included local facts about nature, plant facts, recipes, walks, nature, art and poetry. They launched the magazine at a plant sale, which included a community afternoon tea.

Beckstone Primary School raised money towards an adventure playground, being built in memory of one of their pupils. They organised a Pumpkin Decorating Event and had Halloween music, drinks and snacks for the crafting session. They then went on to create hot chocolate cones, reindeer food and snowman keyrings to sell as part of their Christmas Range to sell. They also organised a Christmas Disco (attended by 180 children) and a cracker craft workshop.



Scan this QR code to watch the fantastic videos that primary schools have created over the years:



Lifelong leadership learning in Cumbria

Since 2011, the Centre for Leadership Performance has worked with educators, employers and young people to build an inclusive lifelong leadership journey from primary school to retirement. We have built positive and enduring relationships that connect these stakeholders and promote collaborative action to develop Cumbria's leaders for today and tomorrow.

PRIMARY

Working with over 150 Cumbrian primary schools, we provide leadership opportunities and connect them with businesses in meaningful ways, bringing learning to life through real-world examples as we nurture aspirations, confidence and self-belief. Our Bright Stars flagship programme continues to excite and engage young people with a high number of schools and businesses taking part year on year, partnering local companies and organisations to create social enterprise businesses that 'make a profit and make a difference' to impact an issue that the children choose.

SECONDARY

Development programmes delivered in schools and youth group settings enable young people to have their voices heard on key issues and work on real projects that enhance their leadership and key employability skills, ignite aspirations and build confidence and self-belief. Businesses and young people work together on key issues and business challenges, raising awareness of local careers and jobs through programmes including ProjX, Elements, Your Community, Leading Change and Dream Placement.

EARLY CAREERS

Supporting 16-30 year olds in their transition from education to employment by providing leadership development via real-life learning experiences. We facilitate Cumbria Future Leaders, which enables young people to connect with one another and relevant opportunities, including our development programmes, Learn2Lead, Your Voice and Skills Academies, which are co-designed with young people to ensure they are tailored to the unique needs of this dynamic age group.

WORK PLACE

We work with a range of businesses across different sectors within Cumbria providing opportunities for managers and leaders to share learning and best practice. They build vital support networks through programmes including our flagship Leader 2 Leader, short courses, action learning sets and shadowing. Clients from primary to board room are encouraged to join our leadership community and build future talent while maximising the strengths of their existing workforce.

To find out about all CforLP programmes contact:

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www.cforlp.org.uk