

Transforming Skills Development

LSEG - June 2020

Summary

Covid-19 poses a serious threat to social mobility and the long-term success of young people everywhere. With extra-curricular activities and programmes currently on hold, schools are the first and often only mechanism of support available for young people to develop their wider skills.

Skills Builder Partnership works to transform how young people develop the eight essential skills to succeed throughout their education. Over 300 schools and colleges have already applied for our support for 2020-21. We would like to invite LSEG to work with us to ensure students nationwide are supported to develop the skills to reach their full potential, both in school and beyond.

The challenge: a crisis like no other

- COVID-19 has led to school closures, loss of work experience opportunities or internships and severely limited access to good quality guidance to inform transitions at key academic points.
- This is creating multiple, new layers of disadvantage for all young people with those from lower-income families hit hardest across all stages of education, from Early Years to college.
- Left unchecked, this will be devastating for social mobility with entire generations facing even greater barriers to employment and professional success.
- With extracurricular activities on hold for months, the need for schools and colleges to equip students with the wider skills to thrive in the 21st century economy is greater than ever.
- Employers have repeatedly called for our education system to better develop communication, collaboration, creative problem solving and self-management skills, but with no clear structure or focused training, teachers lack the confidence and tools to teach these skills.
- With hundreds of schools applying for our support, we have an opportunity re-shape the system for the better and ensure young people can reach their full potential by empowering schools to teach essential skills in a clear and consistent way.

The solution: ensuring essential skills development nationwide

Over the last decade we worked with educators, employers and youth organisations to create the national standard for essential employability skills. The [Skills Builder Universal Framework](#) is already being used by over 12,000 teachers and 135,000 learners nationally, and is widely endorsed. The approach brings clarity and simplicity by focusing on eight essential skills:



[The Skills Builder Accelerator](#) is our capacity-building programme enabling any school or college to transform how students develop the essential skills for success. Our expert team work closely with the leadership and teaching staff of each school to develop and implement a whole-school skills provision strategy, supported by high quality training and teaching resources for the whole staff team, underpinned by the Skills Builder Framework.

This joined-up approach creates:

- Schools where skills development is a central pillar of the teaching strategy for all learners.
- Teachers who are as confident teaching teamwork and staying positive as they are teaching literacy or maths.
- Students who can identify, articulate and demonstrate the skills they need to reach their full career potential.

How LSEG can make a difference

Since applications opened in late March, we have already received over 300 applications from schools to access a fully-funded Accelerator programme. As schools prepare to support students after an unprecedented gap in schooling, applicants emphasise the need for a rigorous approach to developing students' essential skills so that no child or young person is left behind:

'The training and strategies to make this an embedded programme within our learning is a huge benefit to us with the additional wealth of information and skills that your team brings. It allows us to make sure that everyone is brought along together in a positive change.' – **Secondary School, Peterborough**

The two main barriers to learning for our children are difficulties with communication and with emotional control. Skills Builder provides a structure for teaching a range of skills which support the development of both of these aspects from children's own starting points. It allows teachers to identify the small steps for working progressively and can easily be incorporated into planned teaching themes.' – **Primary School, Birmingham**



With school applications coming in daily amidst a challenging fundraising environment, we are launching a campaign to support 500 schools across the country with a fully-funded Accelerator programme so we can transform the skills development of over 125,000 students nationally.

The full year-long package of support, plus a programme of training over the summer to fully equip teachers for the start of school in September, will cost £2,000 per school to deliver.

In order to meet the need, we are inviting all our partners to join us in championing the next generation by making a pledge to support as many schools as you can.

For example, a pledge of £40,000 from LSEG, to provide funding for a cluster of 20 schools and colleges would impact more than 6,000 students for the whole academic year, providing training and support for over 200 teachers.

Now more than ever, our students need our help. Mobilising teachers and providing wrap-around support for schools is the most effective way to ensure students nationwide can benefit. We would be absolutely delighted if LSEG would consider making a pledge of support before Friday 19th June.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration. Please let us know if you have any queries.

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