



**Future
First**

Membership Brochure

Harness the power of alumni and enhance your careers programme

*A YOUNG PERSON'S START IN LIFE
SHOULDN'T LIMIT THEIR FUTURE...*



at the volunteers

**...IT'S SO MUCH
MORE THAN
TALKING
ABOUT JOBS**



HARNESS THE POWER OF YOUR ALUMNI WITH FUTURE FIRST



FUTURE FIRST'S VISION IS FOR A WORLD WHERE A YOUNG PERSON'S START IN LIFE DOES NOT LIMIT THEIR FUTURE.

We've built over

1,250

alumni networks
in state schools and
colleges

We've worked with over

109,000

volunteer alumni

We've connected over

465,000

young people with the
benefits of an alumni
network



Social mobility charity Future First has a vision for a world where a young person's start in life does not limit their future and for a society that harnesses talent from all social backgrounds.

Our mission is for every state school and college in the UK to be supported by a thriving and engaged alumni community that equips young people with the skills and confidence to reach their potential and contribute fully to society.

We work with employers, alumni, and volunteers to provide young people with experiences of the world of work: workshops, insight days, mentoring, resources and more.

We manage these relationships through our Future First Hub – a safe, social media style interface that allows our member schools to build and manage every aspect of their network in one place. In this way, digital is so much more than technology.

WHY OUR MODEL WORKS

Relatable role models: Role models inspire young people; they show them what they can become; they push them out of their comfort zone and show them they believe in them.

Sustainability: The Hub has been created to enable state schools to manage their network of past pupils and to support them to bring the guidance of alumni to young people in the classroom. It helps to drive efficiencies in a resource-constrained sector while improving quality.

Community: Our programmes are transformational in reach and accessibility: working to connect communities and individuals both virtually and in person.

Volunteering: Volunteering provides an opportunity to learn and develop new skills. It has also been shown to boost motivation, empathy, and support mental wellbeing. For employers, a strong volunteering programme helps attract, retain, and engage your workforce.

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE THRIVE AND GROW

Delivering high-quality careers guidance for our young people is more important than ever, and the key to 'unlocking potential' for businesses and the economy. The pandemic has had a detrimental impact on the education of all young people and particularly for disadvantaged learners.

DEALING WITH BENCHMARKS

The focus on the Gatsby Benchmarks and other frameworks such as Careers and Work Related Learning in the Curriculum for Wales have given a clear direction for the type of activities that should be made available to all students, but this can be time consuming for careers leads to manage.

For careers provision to make the most impact we need to:

- Ask students about their aspirations.
- Contextualise learning and equip teachers with sector knowledge.
- Emphasise different pathways.
- Create opportunities to develop.

HEART OF A SUCCESSFUL CAREERS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

An engaged and diverse pool of positive role models is at the heart of a successful careers education programme: from near peers, to experienced employees and a wide range of employers representing different opportunities and sectors.

Future First makes engagement easier and more meaningful. We help you develop a sustainable alumni community: from recruitment to management and ongoing engagement. We provide your careers lead with the tools and resources they need to save time whilst our Future First Hub provides a safe and secure space for staff, students and alumni to come together online.

Case study

ST BONAVENTURE'S SCHOOL



> [CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

Case study

HARRIS ACADEMY RAINHAM



> [CLICK HERE TO READ](#)



"YOU MADE ME FEEL MORE CONFIDENT IN FINDING A PATHWAY FOR MYSELF IN THE FUTURE AND WHAT I COULD POTENTIALLY ACHIEVE."

AS A HEAD TEACHER

We understand the challenges of ensuring that employer encounters for your learners are meaningful and produce measurable outcomes.

That's why building alumni engagement into your careers programme is so powerful: giving your learners access to relatable role models to help them understand what they can achieve, and creating the connections, knowledge and tools to help them to get there.

BUILDING ALUMNI NETWORKS

Encounters with relatable role models also build engagement with school life and schoolwork, motivation to study and the opportunity to connect learning in school with life outside.

Our expertise in building alumni networks, coupled with knowledge of what works, and free resources also saves time: allowing your careers lead to use their time effectively to arrange the most rewarding quality activities for your students.

Alumni links can also help you facilitate 'Teacher Encounters' providing teaching staff with up to date knowledge and skills of industries related to their subject and making them more comfortable with careers conversations with students.

From becoming governors to acting as fundraisers, there are so many more ways alumni can support your students and the wider school community.



"EMPLOYER EXPERIENCES HAVE BEEN A REALLY KEY PART OF OUR ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT. WE'VE HAD CAREERS DAYS WHERE ALUMNI HAVE COME IN IN-PERSON, AS WELL AS PROVIDED VIDEO LINKS WHERE THEY TALK TO A WHOLE YEAR GROUP. ALUMNI HAVE ALSO BEEN HELPFUL WHEN TRYING TO ESTABLISH WORK EXPERIENCE AND WORK PLACEMENTS. QUITE OFTEN THEY'RE WILLING TO TRY BECAUSE THEY WANT PEOPLE FROM THEIR OLD SCHOOL COMING INTO THEIR PLACE OF WORK."

Andy Lewis, Deputy Headteacher, St Bonaventure's School

ONLY 4%

of teachers are comfortable to discuss careers with their students

LEARNERS FROM LOWER SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS ARE UNDER-REPRESENTED IN PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE OF A LACK OF HARD WORK OR TALENT BUT INSTEAD BECAUSE OF A LACK OF OPPORTUNITY.



FOR YOUR CAREERS LEAD

FUTURE FIRST PROVIDES YOUR CAREERS LEAD WITH THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO HELP SAVE TIME AND TO ACTIVATE, BUILD AND CONNECT (A,B,C) YOUR ALUMNI NETWORK AS PART OF AN EFFECTIVE CAREERS SERVICE.

"I'VE FOUND FUTURE FIRST REALLY USEFUL AS A RESOURCE TO SUPPORT THE CAREERS PROGRAMME AT THE SCHOOL. EVEN WHEN I'M QUITE SPECIFIC, THERE'S USUALLY SOMEBODY WHO CAN SPEAK TO THE STUDENTS ABOUT THE CAREER THAT HAS BEEN REQUESTED. THE MIXTURE OF ONE-TO-ONE INTERVIEWS THAT WE'VE RUN, CAREERS TALKS TO THE WHOLE YEAR GROUP, MORE TARGETED CAREERS TALKS AND WORKSHOPS IN SUBJECTS AND LESSONS, HAVE BEEN A REALLY VALUABLE EXPERIENCE THAT HAVE ADDED MASSIVELY TO OUR CAREERS PROGRAMME - I DON'T KNOW HOW WE COULD HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE LINKS TO FUTURE FIRST."

Nicola Harvey, Careers Lead,
Vyners School

We know that careers education is so much more than talking about jobs.

We also know the significant impact an engaged alumni network can have on not only your careers service, but on the students who are inspired and motivated by them.

That's why we've worked with schools, colleges and careers professionals to devise a host of online resources which will:

- Help you create and manage meaningful employer encounters.
- Make tracking destinations simple.
- Directly help you to evidence meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks, Ofsted requirements and Careers and Work Related Learning requirements.
- Support you in your professional development.
- Save you time to focus on creating quality activities for your students.
- Contribute to building your effective careers service.

Whether you already engage with alumni or you're starting from scratch, our online resources and team of experts will help you to navigate the phases of building, activating and connecting your alumni network.



HELPING YOU MEET CAREERS BENCHMARKS: ENGLAND

Gatsby Benchmarks	How working with Future First supports the benchmarks
1: A stable careers programme	Contributing directly to Gatsby Benchmarks, allowing careers leads to make the most of their time.
2: Learning from LMI	Working with alumni provides live qualitative LMI in an accessible way: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the types of industries and businesses that operate. • Detail about the jobs that exist, and what they involve. • The skills that are needed and in high demand. • Details on rates of pay and career progression opportunities.
3: Addressing the needs of every pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging stereotypes. • Raising aspirations. • Working with specific cohorts of learners. • Supporting with the collection of destination data.
4: Linking curriculum to careers	Resources and events that link to core subjects and beyond. Working with alumni to showcase the application of subjects in the world of work.
5: Encounters with employers and employees	Meaningful encounters with employees and employers: preparation tasks to ensure learners get the most out of sessions and surveys to help them evaluate what they learnt and what actions they want to take as a result of the encounter.
6: Experiences of workplaces	The Future First programme offers opportunities for learners to participate in virtual work experience, and undertake Insight Days across a range of sectors.
7: Encounters with Further and Higher Education Providers	Alumni can share details of the FE and HE institutions they went into: demonstrating what is possible.
8: Personal guidance	Engagement in the Future First programme provides rich professional development opportunities for your careers development professional and teaching staff.

"WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE NOW IT'S DIFFERENT, I'VE GOT A LOT MORE CHOICE ABOUT WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WHEN I'M OLDER, MUCH MORE THAN I FIRST THOUGHT. THE ALUMNI SHOWED ME THAT. THEY EXPOSED ME TO LOADS MORE INTERESTING JOBS."

Year 11 student



HELPING YOU MEET CAREERS BENCHMARKS: WALES

Helping your learners develop towards the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, and support Careers and Work Related (CWRE) Learning.

Four Purposes	How working with Future First supports the four purposes	How working with Future First supports CWRE Learning
1. Ambitious and capable learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to relatable and aspirational role models. • Challenging stereotypes. • Raising aspirations. • Working with specific cohorts of learners. 	Develop resilience and the ability to be adaptable in response to challenges, choices and responsibilities of work and life.
2. Enterprising and creative	<p>Meaningful encounters with employees and employers: preparation tasks to ensure learners get the most out of sessions and surveys to help them evaluate what they learnt and what actions they want to take as a result of the encounter.</p> <p>The Future First programme offers opportunities for learners to participate in virtual work experience, and undertake Insight Days across a range of sectors.</p>	Explore opportunities through a variety of meaningful experiences in learning, work and entrepreneurship.
3. Ethical and informed citizens	Opportunities to meet alumni in careers workshops, and find out more about the role of business in society.	Become increasingly aware of the range of opportunities available to them.
4. Healthy and confident	<p>Resources and events that link to core subjects and beyond.</p> <p>Working with alumni to showcase the application of subjects in the world of work.</p>	Develop the attitudes and behaviours required to overcome barriers to employability, career management and lifelong learning.

INCORPORATING THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Our workshops and some of our resources are now available in Welsh. Get in touch for further details: info@futurefirst.org.uk.



"NOW I KNOW THAT FORMER STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, IT LETS ME KNOW THAT I HAVE A CHANCE TO BE SUCCESSFUL AS WELL. I FEEL LIKE IT WAS VERY INSPIRING AND I WILL BE ABLE TO BECOME MY BEST SELF."

Year 10 student

OUR IMPACT

IN 2022-2023: OVER

10,000 STUDENTS

BENEFITTED FROM FUTURE FIRST PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING EMPLOYER-LED ACTIVITY



OVER 22,000

YOUNG PEOPLE HAD ENCOUNTERS WITH RELATABLE ROLE MODELS.

OUT OF 1,120 STUDENTS SURVEYED WHO TOOK PART IN OUR WORKSHOPS:



86%

RATED THEM A 7/10 OR HIGHER

76%

TOLD US THEIR FAVOURITE THING WAS HEARING FROM FORMER STUDENTS WHO WENT TO THEIR SCHOOL OR COLLEGE



"MEETING ALUMNI HAS SHOWN ME WHAT I CAN ACHIEVE BECAUSE THEY'VE GROWN UP IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES TO ME - THEY'VE DONE IT, AND SO CAN I."

Year 12 student

THE PACKAGES

Find the right package for your school's needs and budget.

	ACTIVATE	BUILD	CONNECT
The Toolkit	█	█	█
CPD	█	█	█
The Hub	█	█	█
Technical support	█	█	█
The National Network	█	█	█
Dedicated Alumni Manager	█	█	█
Learner workshops	█	█	█
Employer events for learners	█	█	█
	£450	£1000	£2250

The Toolkit

This online resource provides you with an up to date suite of templates, 'how to' guidance and ideas to help you build and maintain a successful alumni network. From planning social media, to running events, working with volunteers, evaluating impact and more - the toolkit is designed to save you valuable time.

CPD

We run a calendar of events and learning and development opportunities at times that fit in with your schedule. You will also be able to share learnings and achievements by connecting with fellow members at in-person conferences and events.

The Hub & technical support

Providing a user-friendly, secure and safe place for alumni and students to come together, you can rely on the Future First Hub for building your alumni network, managing engagement, tracking destinations, and sourcing volunteers. Our expert team will be on hand to support you in making the most of the Future First Hub.

The National Network

To enhance your own network, the National Network gives you access to over 7,000 volunteers who want to give back to state schools and colleges, enabling students and schools to expand their reach and connect with volunteers with destinations or demographics they relate to in a safeguarded environment.

Dedicated Alumni Manager

From outlining a strategy to reach your goals, to recruiting alumni and running workshops, your Alumni Programme Manager will guide you through every step of building and sustaining your alumni network, offering support whenever you need it.

Learner workshops

Focusing on careers and pathways, our workshops bring alumni volunteers into the classroom to share their journeys with your students, and show them what people like them can achieve.

Employer events for learners

We work with a wide range of employers across the UK who share our values and are passionate about our mission. From inviting students into their offices for insight days, to providing access to opportunities in real workplace settings, our partnerships enable meaningful experiences with employers.

Discounted add ons for members:

WORKSHOPS - £600

A day of workshops for your students: we will recruit, brief and manage alumni volunteers as well as facilitate in-person sessions to connect them with your current students.

ALUMNI STRATEGY MEETING - £250

A one hour virtual planning meeting to create your strategy to build and engage a thriving network of alumni. An action plan will be provided.

BESPOKE CPD - FROM £250

Prices start at £250 for a two-hour virtual session. In person half day CPD starts at £400.

JOIN TODAY

Ready to take the next step in building an engaged alumni network, or ask our expert team any questions?

Click to
book a demo

Click to
get started

OR SIMPLY GET IN TOUCH
INFO@FUTUREFIRST.ORG.UK

**... IT'S SO MUCH
MORE THAN TALKING
ABOUT JOBS.**

info@futurefirst.org.uk

www.futurefirst.org.uk



Affiliate Organisation

Future First is the public name for Future First Alumni Limited, a registered charity, number 1135638.