

2025 Annual Report

ELBA

CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

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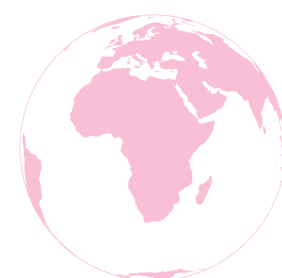
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A Word from Our Chair

I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the year 2025.

Partnerships for lasting change

This year has been shaped by change and continuing relationships. We have welcomed new partners alongside familiar organisations, with collaborations ranging from short-term projects to the early stages of longer-term partnerships. What stands out is not just the variety of initiatives, but the shared commitment behind



them to improve lives in practical and lasting ways.

Across our work in health, education and poverty alleviation, we continue to see how closely these areas are linked in people's everyday realities. Progress in one area often depends on progress in another, and it is in this overlap that some of the most meaningful work takes place.

Independent Philanthropy

It is also here that independent philanthropy can make a meaningful contribution. Established systems are

not always able to provide the flexibility and freedom needed to support innovative approaches and early-stage initiatives. By creating that space, we can help organisations explore new possibilities, strengthen their work and expand their impact:

We aim to back efforts that make a tangible difference in people's lives and are grateful for the trust and energy of all our partners. Together, we continue to create opportunities for meaningful and lasting change.

Melanie Smith

About Our Foundation

Our Objectives

The Elba Foundation aims to create opportunities and contribute to stronger, more equitable communities around the world. We focus on education, health and poverty alleviation. Our work is guided by the charitable principles and legal frameworks of the Netherlands, England and Wales. We support initiatives through funding and other forms of assistance where we believe our contribution can make a meaningful difference.

Our Activities

The Elba Foundation works with charitable and non-profit organisations whose objectives and activities align with our mission.

Before providing support, we consider the purpose, approach and expected impact of each initiative to ensure that our resources are directed towards activities that serve the public good. Through these partnerships, we aim to contribute to initiatives that address important social needs and create lasting value.

Our Projects

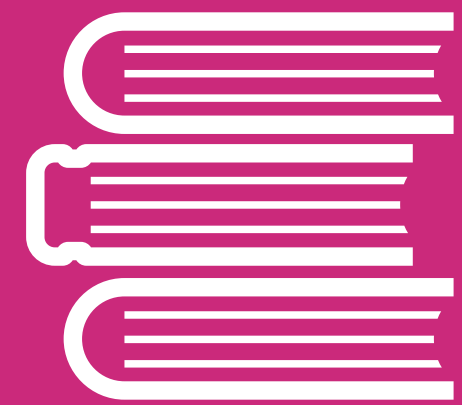
During 2025, the Elba Foundation supported a range of projects across different communities and areas of need. The initiatives presented in this report provide an overview of the Foundation's work during the year. Together, these projects reflect the breadth of our activities and the organisations we have chosen to support.



photo courtesy of Tess Unlimited



Our Projects



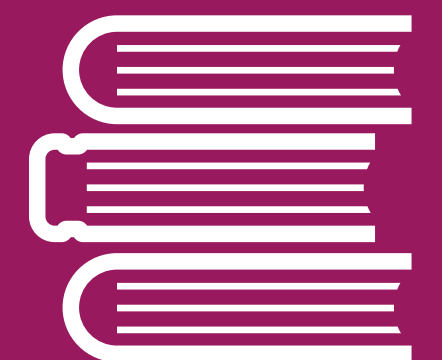
The Advancement of Education

Think. Learn. Thrive.

Education plays a vital role in the lives of young people of all ages and backgrounds, from schools and colleges to universities and other learning environments. These spaces provide opportunities to learn, build confidence, develop relationships and prepare for the future.

Young people today face a range of challenges, including social media pressures, online influences and concerns around mental health and wellbeing. Education institutions have an important role in creating safe, inclusive and supportive environments where every young person can learn, connect, seek support and develop resilience.

By investing in education, learning and wellbeing, we help ensure that all young people have the opportunity to thrive: academically, socially, emotionally and personally.







Ark Projects

Our long-standing partnership with Ark, spanning almost a decade, continues to support its work to drive educational excellence, inclusion and opportunity for young people. Our current support is helping Ark advance three interconnected areas of work: Ed City, AI Innovation and Purposeful Ventures.

Together, these strands strengthen the wider education ecosystem, enabling organisations to collaborate and grow, supporting responsible innovation in education, and helping promising organisations develop and scale their impact for children and young people.



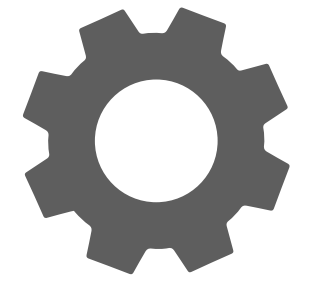
photo courtesy of Absolute Return for Kids



photo courtesy of BD Landscape Architects

EdCity: Ark's New Home and a Hub for Social Impact

EdCity brings education-focused organisations together in a collaborative hub in White City, London, providing affordable, flexible workspace and creating opportunities to share ideas, develop solutions and increase collective impact. Alongside its role as a hub for the education sector, EdCity contributes to the regeneration and community development of the local area, bringing organisations and communities together and helping to create a more connected and vibrant neighbourhood.



Strengthen Teaching and Learning

AI Innovation is exploring how artificial intelligence can be used responsibly to improve teaching, learning and decision-making across Ark's schools. This includes testing high-quality AI tools and developing new approaches to using Ark's curriculum and education data to help teachers and schools make better-informed decisions.

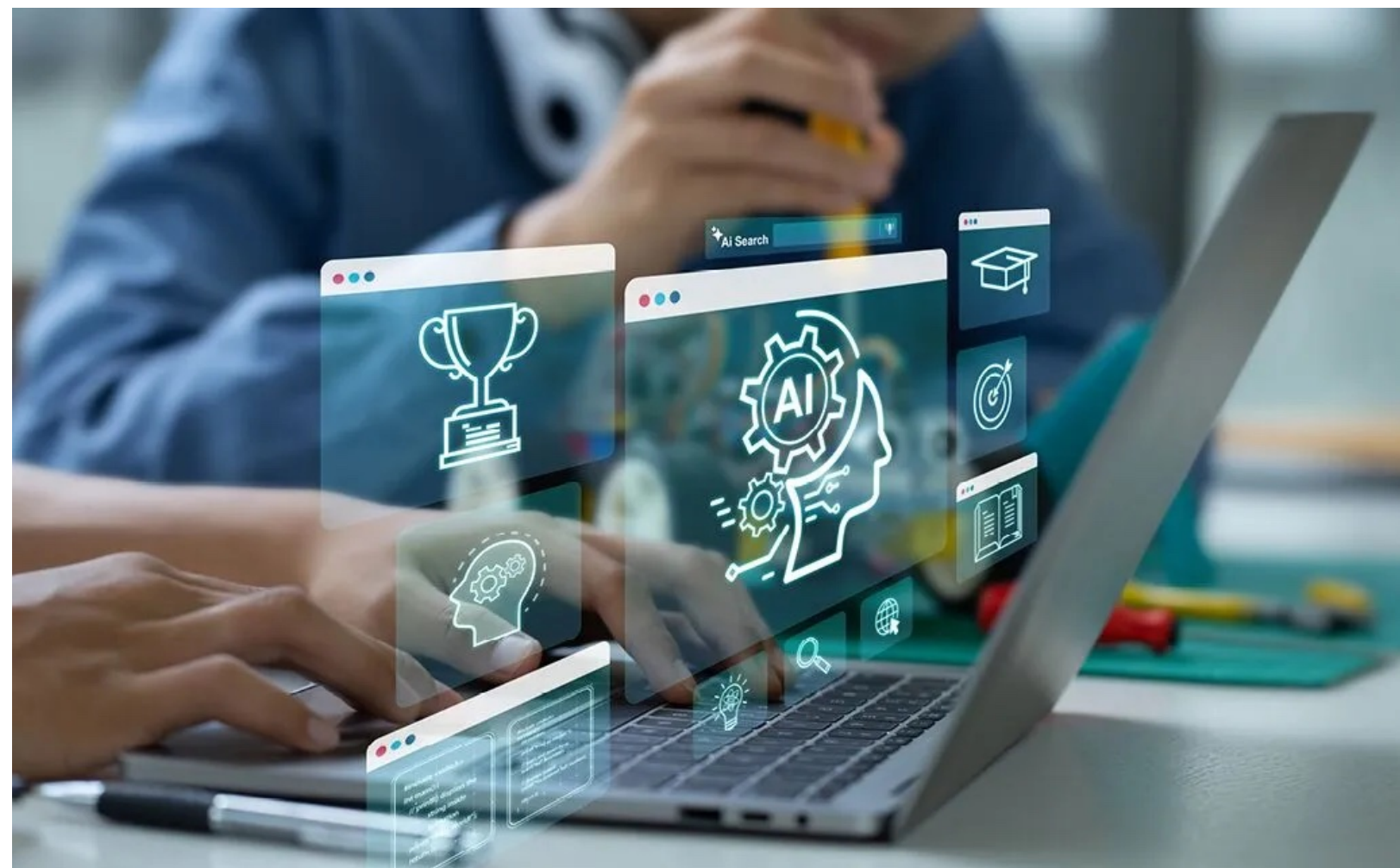


photo courtesy of American College of Education

Growing Impact

Purposeful Ventures supports the growth of high-potential organisations working across children and families, music and arts, and STEM excellence. Through incubation, grant-making, strategic support and sector convening, the initiative helps organisations strengthen their capacity, demonstrate their impact, secure funding and scale their work.

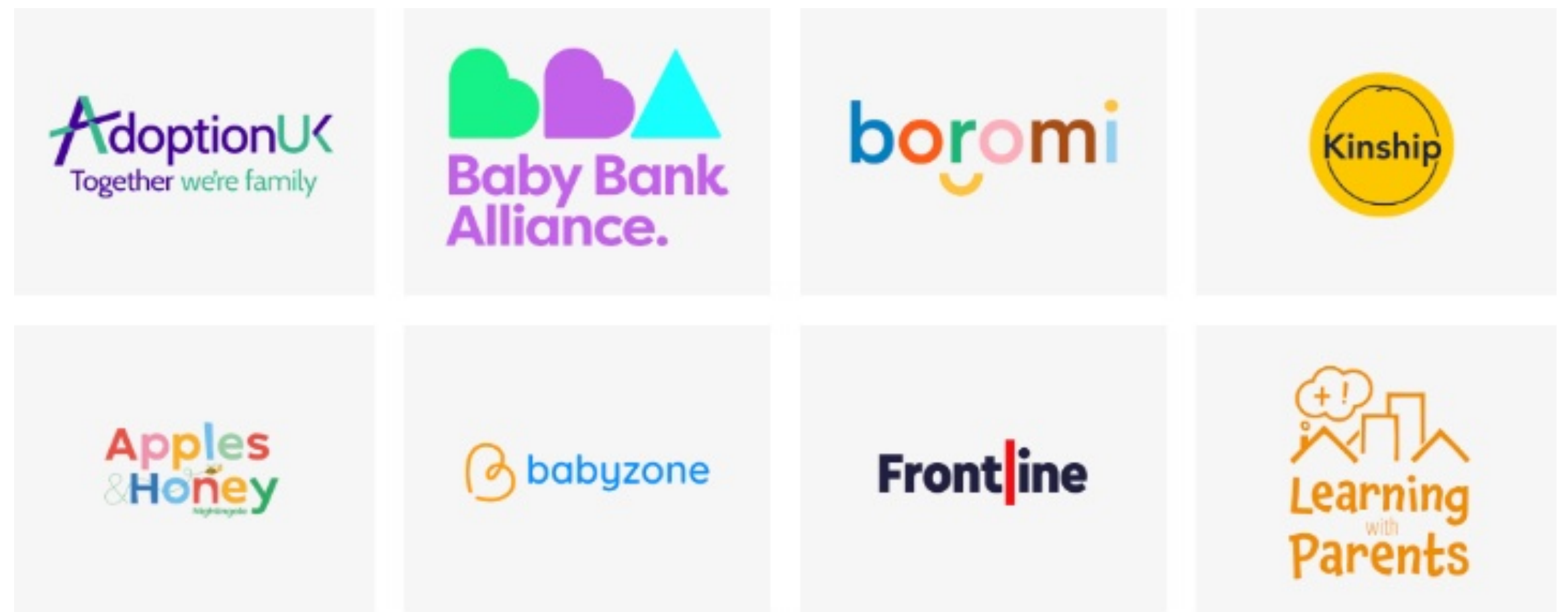
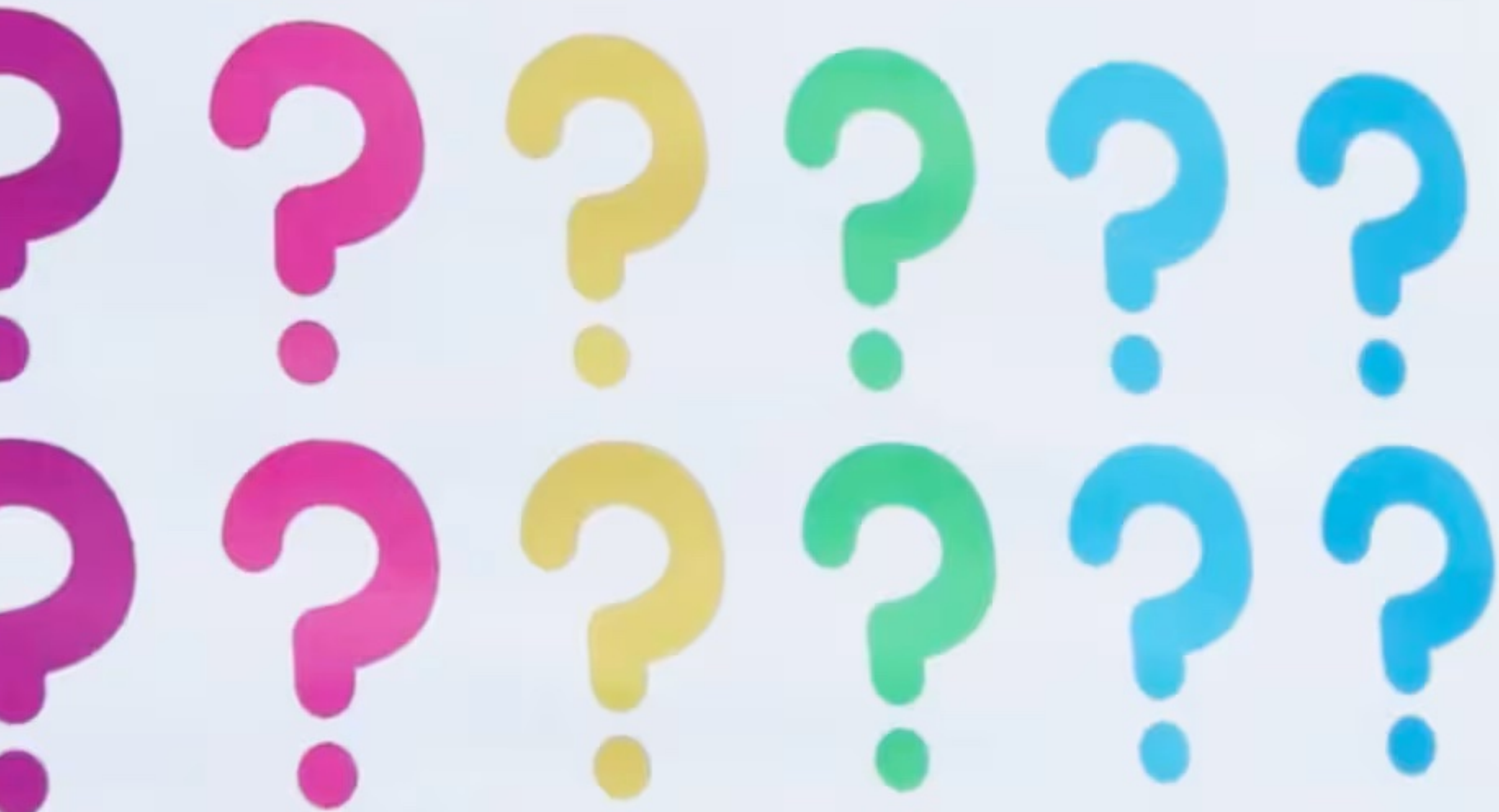


photo courtesy of Purpose Ventures





Pathways to Higher Education

Through Oxplore, we work with the University of Oxford to make higher education more accessible to young people from backgrounds under-represented at Oxford and other leading universities. The programme aims to equip students with the skills, confidence and curiosity to pursue further education and realise their potential.

Oxplore helps them develop critical thinking, oracy and argumentation skills, while demystifying higher education and encouraging them to see themselves as potential university students. The Oxplore programme combines digital learning, teacher support and targeted outreach through various complementary strands.



photo courtesy of University of Oxford



photo courtesy of University of Oxford

Explore: The Home of Big Questions

Provides free, engaging digital resources that encourage young people to explore complex ideas independently and develop university-style thinking.

Explore Festival

Brings researchers, student ambassadors and interactive learning experiences directly to schools in areas where participation in higher education is low, with a particular focus on disadvantaged learners.

Explore Teach

Supports teachers with classroom resources and professional development, helping them build learners' academic skills and support their longer-term progression to higher education.

Explore Communities

Extends the programme's reach through partnerships with schools, colleges, universities and social-mobility organisations, as well as by supporting parents, carers, community organisations and early-career researchers to engage young people with Explore's resources.





Digital Balance in Education

Blackout Technologies is a digital solutions provider working with schools to address the impact of smartphone use on learning and student well-being. While smartphones play an important role in young people's lives, their use during the school day can affect concentration, behaviour and well-being, while placing additional pressure on teachers.

Through its Education Platform, Blackout enables schools to restrict access to distracting applications, such as social media and games, during school hours while retaining essential communication. This provides a practical way to reduce phone-related disruption and encourage healthier digital habits among students.



photo courtesy of Blackout Technologies

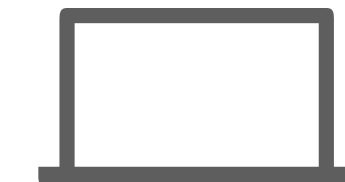


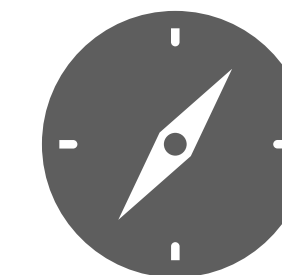
photo courtesy of The Puke High School - NZ

Focused Learning Environments

Our charitable contributions enable participating schools to take part in a pioneering pilot programme using Blackout's Education Platform. The pilot allows schools to assess how the approach works in practice and its potential to improve the learning environment.

By gathering experience across participating schools, the programme may provide useful insights into the development of practical approaches to digital distraction in education. If the results are encouraging, these insights could provide a basis for applying similar solutions more widely.





Connecting Students with the Wider World

We again partner with Reach the World, a global education non-profit organisation that connects schoolchildren with explorers, innovators and people from around the world, bringing global experiences into the classroom through technology. By enabling students to learn directly from people with different experiences and perspectives, Reach the World helps make global learning more accessible and engaging.

Our renewed grant to Reach the World builds on this work,

supporting the further development of its digital platform and virtual exchange programmes. The project will expand access to global learning experiences and strengthen connections between students, teachers, volunteers and partners across different countries and communities.

Through our support, Reach the World can reach more students and educators internationally and create opportunities for children from different backgrounds to develop curiosity, confidence and resilience, while building a greater understanding of the wider world and the people in it.

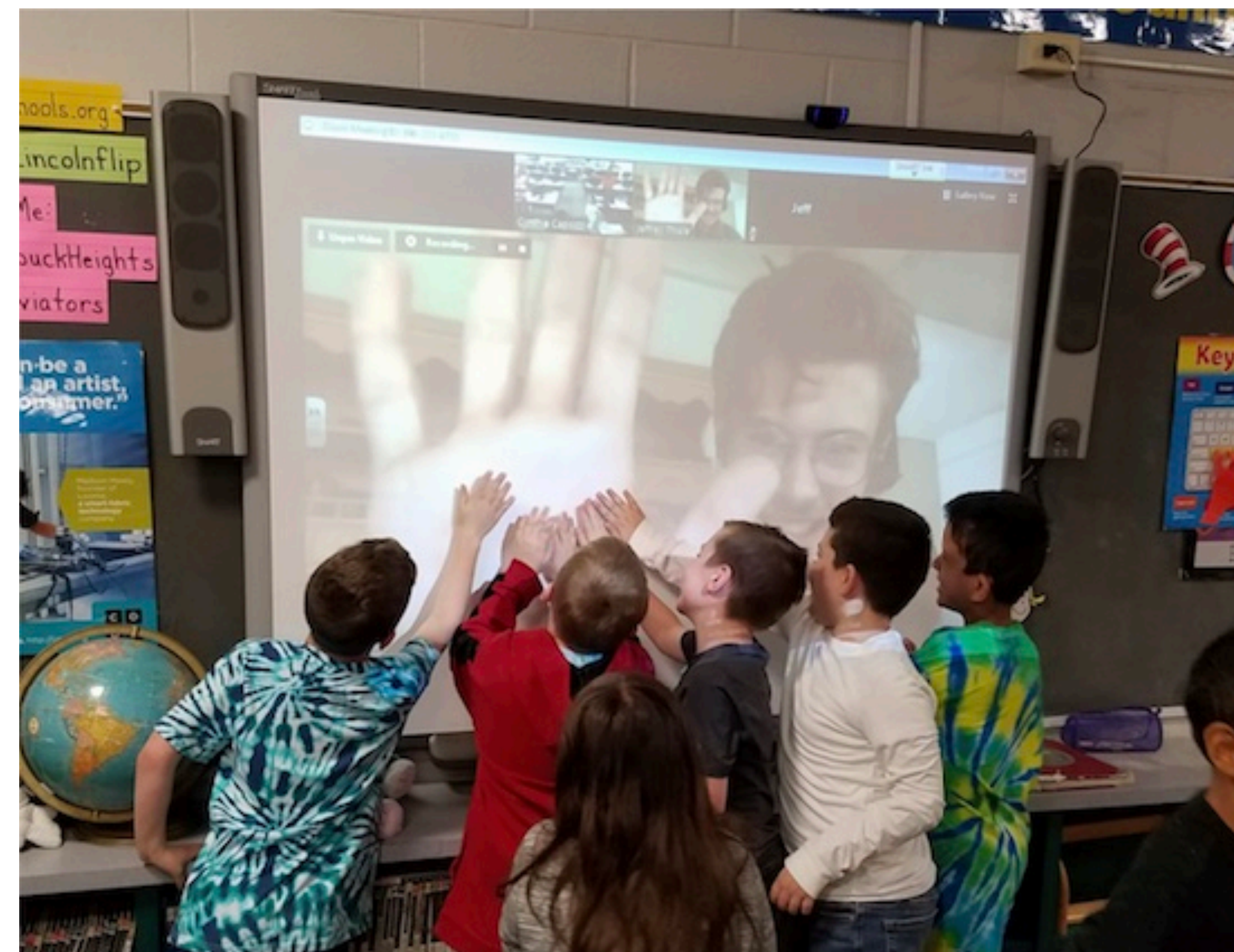


photo courtesy of Reach the World



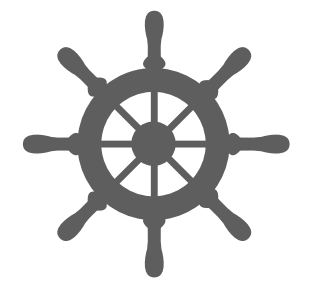


photo courtesy of The Marine Technology Trust

Supporting Marine Technology Talent

The Marine Technology Trust works to encourage and develop the next generation of talent in the marine technology sector.

The project focuses on improving access to internships and training opportunities for University students, helping them gain practical experience and build connections with the industry.

Our contribution enables the development of an

online platform connecting undergraduate and graduate students with companies offering internships in marine technology. By strengthening connections between students and the marine industry, The Marine Technology Trust aims to increase access to practical experience, support the development and retention of emerging talent, and contribute to the future of the marine technology sector.



The Relief of Poverty

Empower. Uplift. Thrive.

Everyone deserves the chance to build a good life, regardless of where they come from or the circumstances they face. Poverty can limit choices and opportunities, but with the right support, people can overcome barriers, build confidence and create a more secure future for themselves and their families.

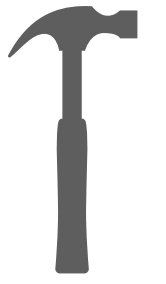
We support initiatives that give people the practical support, skills and opportunities they need to move forward. By investing in people and communities, we aim to help create greater independence and dignity, while opening doors to new possibilities and a brighter future.







Gered Gereedschap



Building Sustainable Livelihoods

Gered Gereedschap's Craftsmanship as a Basis for Self-Reliance project, supported by the Elba Foundation, continued to strengthen the Entrepreneurial Workshop in Iganga, Uganda.

The Workshop aims to help young and established craftspeople build sustainable livelihoods by providing access to quality tools, workspace, technical support and entrepreneurial training.

During 2025, the workshop continued to improve its operations, resulting in lower production costs and increased profitability. It attracted new and returning craftspeople, while the use of tool and machine rental services grew significantly. These developments are strengthening the workshop's potential to become financially self-sustaining.



photo courtesy of Gered Gereedschap



Gered Gereedschap



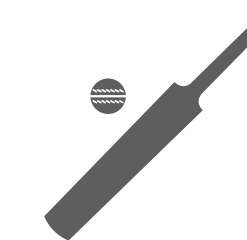
photo courtesy of Gered Gereedschap

Skills and Entrepreneurship

The project also continued to invest in skills development and entrepreneurship. Craftspeople received training in areas such as marketing, costing, business management and record-keeping. A local trade exhibition provided an opportunity for craftspeople to showcase their products, connect with potential customers and suppliers, and exchange knowledge and experiences.

The workshop is increasingly becoming a hub for local craftspeople, with growing demand for its production services, tool rental, workspace and technical guidance. While building a financially sustainable workshop takes time, the progress so far is encouraging. Continued training and support will help further strengthen the workshop and enable craftspeople to grow their businesses and incomes.





Cricket for Social Change

In 2025, we began supporting Bat for a Chance, a charity that uses cricket to increase access to sport and contribute to positive social change in underserved communities in the UK and internationally.

The initiative combines the distribution of recycled cricket equipment with Cricket for Social Change programmes in South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. By providing quality second-hand equipment, the programme helps reduce barriers to participation while extending the useful life of sports equipment and supporting a more circular approach to the game.

T



photo courtesy of Bat For A Chance



photo courtesy of Bat For A Chance

Empowerment and Opportunity

Alongside equipment distribution, the Cricket for Social Change programmes use cricket as a platform for education, skills development, employment and community engagement, with a particular focus on women, girls and young people.

Through the project, Bat for a Chance aims to contribute to gender equality, social and economic development, and improved physical and mental well-being, while strengthening local partnerships and creating the foundations for longer-term social impact.



The Promotion of Health and Healthcare

Mind. Move. Thrive.

Health is an essential part of living a happy and fulfilling life. It encompasses many different aspects, from mental health and emotional wellbeing to physical health, sport and activity, prevention and access to quality healthcare.

We believe everyone, regardless of age or background, should have the opportunity to understand, improve and maintain their health and wellbeing. By supporting initiatives across the broad spectrum of health and healthcare, we aim to contribute to healthier individuals, stronger communities and a better quality of life for all







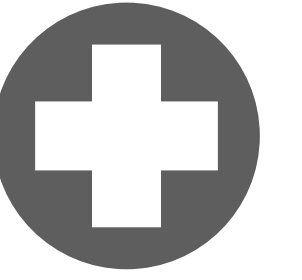
Holistic Approach

One of our longest-standing partnerships is with Stichting Tess Unlimited, a Dutch foundation established in Guatemala to support children born with cleft lip and palate. In a country where access to specialised healthcare remains limited, Tess Unlimited provides comprehensive care through its own hospital in Antigua, from surgery and nutrition support to orthodontic treatment and pre- and post-operative care.

Our funding contributes to this holistic approach, helping children access the treatment and ongoing support they need throughout their development. The organisation is also investing in local medical expertise, with an increasing number of Guatemalan specialists now involved in providing care. In 2025, 35% of the cleft palate surgeries were performed by local surgeons, marking an important milestone in the development of a strong, locally led specialist team.



photo courtesy of Tess Unlimited



Sustainable Healthcare

For children born with a cleft condition, timely and comprehensive treatment can make a profound difference. Access to surgery, nutritional support and follow-up care can help children overcome challenges with feeding, speech and development, while giving them the opportunity to grow and participate more fully in school, family and community life.

The organisation's own hospital provides a dedicated, child-friendly environment for this care, while accommodation close to the hospital enables families travelling from across Guatemala to stay together during treatment. This helps make specialist care more accessible and supports families throughout what can be a long treatment journey.

By supporting Tess Unlimited, we are helping ensure that children and their families can access comprehensive care while contributing to the development of sustainable, locally led specialist healthcare in Guatemala.



photo courtesy of Tess Unlimited

WHAT DOES THE PURPLE
BUTTERFLY MEAN TO YOU?

“
Gave me light
when I was in my
darkest days”

THE SKYE HIGH FOUNDATION

WHAT DOES THE PURPLE
BUTTERFLY MEAN TO YOU?

“
Acknowledgement of our
missing piece in our family.”

THE SKYE HIGH FOUNDATION



Examples of
crocheted
purple
butterflies

and a few designs
we would love to
see more of!



More than just a butterfly



The Skye High Foundation

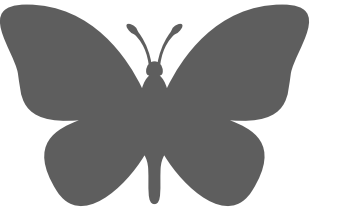


Thank you so much to everyone who has spent their time
crocheting and donating to the cause. We can't do it alone!





The Skye High Foundation



Supporting Families through Loss

For a second time we supported The Skye High Foundation, a charitable organisation providing practical and emotional care to families after the loss of a baby who was part of a multiple birth.

A key part of their work is the Butterfly Packs, which provide memory items and resources to families following the loss of a baby. The organisation further trains healthcare professionals to provide sensitive and compassionate support, helping

ensure families feel understood and cared for at a time of profound grief.

Our contribution enabled The Skye High Foundation to continue its training programme, bringing together medical expertise and the voices of bereaved families. By helping healthcare professionals better understand the experiences of these families, the programme encourages a more compassionate approach to care and ensures that families feel seen, understood and remembered.







photo courtesy of The Oxford Mail

Building Active, Connected Communities

We established a multi-year partnership with Courtside, an organisation with a mission to bring people together through physical and social activity. At the heart of its approach are people: creating welcoming places where people of all ages and backgrounds can be active, meet others and enjoy being part of their local community. Alongside sport and recreation, Courtside's spaces provide opportunities to meet socially, including through cafés and activities such as tennis holiday camps.

To realise this vision, Courtside works closely with local authorities, partners and the communities themselves. Each new hub brings its own opportunities and challenges, while also providing valuable learning about what works, what is needed locally and how the model can continue to develop.



Beyond the Psychological Space

Our partnership gives us the flexibility to respond to new opportunities and challenges, think along with Courtside and step in where needed, including by adapting our funding as circumstances evolve. This allows the organisation to stay focused on its vision while continuing to learn and develop.

The results are both tangible and visible, with the transformation of spaces providing a clear reflection of Courtside's approach. But the value goes beyond the physical spaces: the activities, relationships and opportunities created through them generate wider social value. It is this combination of people, place and participation that gives Courtside's model its potential to create lasting local impact.



photo courtesy of Courtside Hubs

Four men with beards and athletic wear are standing on a boat, holding a large banner. They are all smiling and have their arms around each other. The background shows a harbor with many sailboats and a sunset sky with orange and blue clouds. The banner is blue and white with bold text.

**WORLD'S
TOUGHEST**

ROW™

WE ROWED THE ATLANTIC

LA GOMERA - 3,000 MILES - ANTIGUA



HMS Oardacious



Adventure with Purpose

HMS Oardacious is an ocean rowing initiative built around extraordinary challenges of endurance and adventure. Over the years, the Atlantic crossings have become a powerful vehicle for promoting resilience, unity and inspiration, while creating opportunities to engage people around mental health, STEM and leadership. Our long-term engagement with HMS Oardacious reflects our commitment to this evolving mission.

Building on the success of last year's Valkyries campaign, which helped raise the profile of women in adventure and STEM, all hands were on deck for the 2025 challenge as a new crew prepared to take on the Atlantic. Including a submariner doctor and three engineers, the team brought a strong STEM focus to the campaign, highlighting the role of science, technology and engineering in safety, teamwork and performance in an extreme environment.



photo courtesy of The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity



HMS Oardacious



photo courtesy of THMS Oardacious

Triple E

The impact of HMS Oardacious now extends well beyond the rowing itself. Through schools, youth leadership platforms, conferences and partnerships, the organisation shares its experience with wider audiences, while fundraising supports mental health and well-being initiatives for submariners, service families and wider communities.

By combining Endurance, Education and Engagement, HMS Oardacious turns extraordinary challenges into opportunities to inspire others and create wider social impact.



Future Outlook



The Elba Foundation

Room to Respond

Looking ahead, our role as an independent philanthropic funder remains important. It gives us the freedom to take a long-term view and to respond flexibly to the needs of the organisations we work with.

Our experience over the years has shown the value of partnerships built on trust, openness and a shared commitment to practical results. We will continue to seek out organisations with strong ideas, clear purpose and the potential to make a meaningful difference, while remaining open to new approaches and emerging needs.

Education, health and poverty alleviation will continue to guide our grantmaking. Within these areas, we will look carefully at where our funding can add value, strengthen organisations and contribute to tangible and lasting improvements in people's lives.

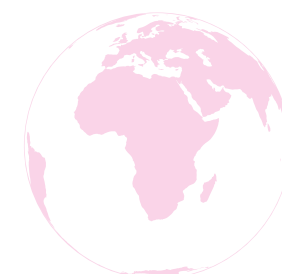


photo courtesy of Courtside Hubs

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