

Teach First and the Worshipful Company of Butchers

Charities Committee Update: January 2021



Without a doubt, 2021 is already off to a difficult start. Schools are once again closed to most children and teachers are finding themselves in the familiar position of having to educate the next generation online. Parents are struggling with home-schooling whilst also balancing the demands of work. Throughout this, the gap between the richest and poorest pupils continues to grow.

Our schools and teachers continue to go above and beyond for their pupils. They are creating online lessons, delivering resources for those pupils without devices and working tirelessly to ensure none of their pupils fall behind. We are working alongside our schools to give them the support they need and using our connections within the government to advocate on behalf of the poorest pupils.

It is only thanks to our partnership with the Worshipful Company of Butchers that we can give our schools the support they so desperately need. Together, we have been able to respond rapidly to new challenges and we are incredibly proud of everything we have been able to achieve. Your support for our leadership programmes has meant that we can continue this vital training, even when schools have closed. With strong leadership our schools and pupils will recover from this pandemic.

This update includes information on how COVID-19 continues to impact education, and how we are working to overcome this. There are also details on our recent work with the Livery Company.

COVID-19 and education:

Picture this, you've had six months away from the office. You tried to get your work done at home, but you've had no laptop, no internet and not even enough food to get you through the day. You

get back to the office and realise that your colleagues have had everything they needed to stay on track. They're ready to continue, you're not.

That's the reality for millions of poorer young people. They returned to schools in September with classmates who had what they needed to keep learning during lockdowns. Now schools are closed again, the poorest young people are often left without an education. The Institute of Fiscal Studies conducted a study of 4,000 parents between April and May 2020. They found that children from well-off households were spending 30% more time a day on educational activities than pupils in the poorest households.

Before COVID-19 young people from poorer communities struggled to keep up with their wealthier peers. The odds are only getting tougher. Our teaching community are fearful of the long-term impact this crisis will have on their pupils with increased absenteeism and mental health issues, alongside crucial learning lost.

We have to act now if we want to give the poorest pupils a chance to recover from this pandemic. If we don't, there is a risk that their entire lives will be defined by these school closures. We have the expertise, and thanks to our partnership with the Worshipful Company of Butchers we can reach the schools that need us the most.

How we are supporting our schools, teachers and pupils

Schools have never faced such a challenging year. Those supporting the most disadvantaged pupils are juggling online learning as well as caring for the most vulnerable pupils who are still in school and ensuring that those on Free School Meals are catered for. Our Trainees who only started in the classroom in September have responded rapidly to new challenges and we are incredibly proud of everything they have done for their pupils.

We have put several initiatives in place to support our schools:

- **Online support:** All our programmes have been moved online. This meant that although we could not visit our trainees or school leaders in person, our Delivery Leads continued to provide the guidance they needed. Although this was a huge change in our ways of working, we have already seen the benefits for our leadership programmes. Teacher who are working in the most remote schools must no longer travel long distances to attend training courses. Our teachers can listen to course content at a time that suits them, helping to improve their work-life balance. We have also added additional content to our programmes, with a greater focus on teacher and pupil wellbeing. This pandemic will have long-lasting impacts on the mental health of children and their teachers. Our modules help our trainees and leaders to protect their own mental wellbeing, helping them to build resilience, and spot signs of problems for their pupils. This is a particularly crucial aspect of our leadership programmes, to ensure that teacher wellbeing is prioritised among all school senior leaders.



- **Academic Mentors:** Our new Academic Mentoring programme is part of the government-funded National Tutoring Programme. Its aim is to increase access to high-quality tuition for disadvantaged and vulnerable children. We are recruiting, training and placing mentors in the schools that need them the most. In October, 188 new mentors started in the classrooms across the country. We will aim to recruit at least 1,000 mentors over this year, reaching over 50,000 of the most disadvantaged pupils. Through this, we will help our pupils to recover and thrive following this pandemic.
- **Campaigning:** We are continuing to use our connections in the government and the Department of Education to advocate on behalf of our schools. We are currently focusing on the digital divide, which greatly affects the poorest children. A recent Teacher Tapp survey found that 84% of schools with the poorest children don't have enough devices to allow home learning. We are calling on large business and the government to step forward and close this digital gap. We can then work with local communities to ensure that much-needed tech is delivered to the schools that need it the most.
We are also working alongside Ofqual (Office of Qualification and Examinations Regulations) to ensure that recent exam cancellations don't have a negative impact on the poorest pupils. We are consulting with our headteachers to understand their concerns and will be reporting this to Ofqual. We will ensure that our pupils are considered in any new government plans.
- **Our networks:** Our networks have been a vital support system for our trainees, ambassadors and school leaders. Our community have come together to support each other, share resources and provide examples of best practice. Our headteachers have come together online every week to discuss their challenges, and new networks are being created all the time. These communities of teachers and leaders have supported each other through impossible times.

None of this would have been possible without our partnership with the Worshipful Company of Butchers. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to continue providing vital leadership training to our teachers. Only with strong leadership can our schools make sustainable improvements and transform their communities. This is needed now, more than ever, as our schools and pupils look to recover from the effects of COVID-19.

Working with the Worshipful Company of Butchers

Over the last twelve months we have been unable to continue with many of our usual activities alongside the Livery Company. However, members of the Company have continued to support Teach First, giving up their time to make sure our pupils can still learn about exciting and varied careers.

Over the last few months we have been working on several projects:

- **Aubrey Allen apprenticeship day:** We have been working alongside Lucianne Allen to design a bespoke apprenticeship day for pupils. To highlight the range of opportunities available through apprenticeships, we are looking to host a day of workshops and talks. Pupils will hear from apprentices working in different areas of the Aubrey Allen business, and will even join a session with Lucianne to hear about her career as a barrister and her

current work with Aubrey Allen. This will be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn about a range of careers, and the benefits of taking on an apprenticeship. We are incredibly grateful to Lucianne and the staff at Aubrey Allen for offering to support us with this work. We were hoping to host this in March, inline with the national apprenticeship week. However, due to recent school closures, this has been delayed. We hope to host this event either in person, or virtually, with schools in June. We will keep the Livery Company updated with our progress,

- **Careers videos:** We have now received several videos from companies involved with the Worshipful Company of Butchers. The IPC, through Mike Attwood, have sent multiple videos from staff across their organisation. These are highly engaging and informative, giving pupils a unique insight into their industry and career path. These are being shared with our schools, along with our existing video from Lucy Thompson. Thanks to a connection from Bill Jerney, we are also looking forward to receiving a video from Joe Seddon in the future. He has offered to create a video along with one of his colleagues to highlight the benefits of apprenticeships. Paul Dolan has also generously offered to create a video in the future.

These videos ensure that our pupils are not missing out on vital careers education, just because they are working from home. We are very grateful for all the time and effort that has been put into each of these videos.

- **Teach First thank-you event:** This year our annual thank-you event was slightly different. Hosted on Zoom, we invited our partners to meet with Dame Vivian, Russell and our executive team to hear about all aspects of our work and ask any questions they might have. We were delighted that Jean, Mike and Gerald were able to represent the Butchers Company in recognition on your generous support. We look forward to running this event again in October this year.

We are so grateful for everything that the Worshipful Company of Butchers has done to support Teach First over the last year. Your partnership has enabled us to continue supporting our teachers and pupils through an incredibly challenging year. Together, we have ensured that even though schools are closed pupils, the most disadvantaged pupils can still benefit from a fantastic education. Our teachers have continued to access vital leadership training, helping them to continue their work throughout the pandemic, and ensuring they are ready to return once schools do re-open.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Worshipful Company of Butchers and working together to bring exciting career opportunities to our pupils.

Georgina Pedley

Senior Partnerships Manager