



Photo credit: Sloane Warren



Thomas's
FOUNDATION

From the Chairman

There is much about 2020 that we will gladly put behind us. But what will we choose to retain? The global pandemic has reminded us of two essential truths, both of which are at the heart of Thomas's Foundation's vision, mission and values: the fundamental importance of education and the power of community as a force for good.



Like most organisations, Thomas's Foundation has been challenged this year in ways that we failed to imagine. At the same time, thanks to partnerships built up by many people over many years, we have found ourselves ready, willing and able to step up to meet the need.

It is already clear that, in educational terms, the pandemic has had the greatest negative impact on the most disadvantaged children. Like every good charity, we should be working hard to put ourselves out of business. But, as things stand, it has never been more important to work together to ensure that every child deserves an enriching education.

Thank you to everyone who has worked with us this year to turn that vision into reality; to our trustees, volunteers, donors, to Liz Woodcock and her tiny team. Most of all, thank you to the children whom we serve, whose energy, optimism and hopes for the future give urgency and purpose to our work today.

Ben Thomas
Chairman
Thomas's Foundation

“Thomas’s inspired me, motivated me, fuelled me.”



Naseem Moumene, a past Bursary pupil (picture above, centre). To read his story click [here](#).



The Foundation currently supports ten pupils with bursaries in years 7 & 8 at Thomas’s Battersea. For the 41 pupils we have supported to date we are told this has been a life changing opportunity.

To take a minimum of four bursary students through from Year 7 - 13 at Thomas’s Battersea is a commitment of **£1m per annum**.



Our community projects provide educational opportunities in art, drama, music and sport. One of these projects is Wandsworth Music. Click [here](#) to see their Performance Troupe “Reach for the Stars” during lockdown.

- 100+ Reading volunteers
- 40 Community Partnership volunteers
- 20 Partner Schools
- 16 Community Centres and Partner Organisations



- 80+ funded projects
- Readers’ Cup
- Volunteer Reading Programme
- 32 Music Scholarships
- Pathway - 30+ pupils
- Collaborative Projects
- Book Drives

Be Inspired Lecture Series

The Foundation launched its first Be Inspired lecture in December. The speaker [Yusra Madini](#) is a 22 year old Syrian refugee who fled war torn Syria and faced many challenges on both her physical journey to safety and personal journey to accomplishing her goal of competing as an Olympic swimmer on the refugee team. Our thanks to Claudia von Boeselager, a Thomas’s Kensington parent for leading this initiative with the support of the volunteer community teams.



The talk was delivered online to more than 20 partner schools reaching as many as 1800 children.

Our partner school teachers told us:

“The children loved it and found her incredibly inspirational. We had such a lovely time listening to her story and had fantastic conversations afterwards about her”

“... a real positive from lockdown - in normal circumstances we would never have been able to get so many young people engaging in such a powerful story of hope”



Pathway

Pathway is a challenging and stimulating learning enrichment programme for able disadvantaged Year 5 pupils in local partner schools. It runs on one Saturday morning a month from January - December. 31 children from 16 partner schools attended this year. Although the programme was disrupted by lockdown we were able to offer a two week Summer School and the children have also been supported at home through an online learning platform.



School Unlocked

Six schools across London hosted the School Unlocked Summer Programme of catch up classes for more than 170 pupils in Maths, English and the Arts.

“Thank you for setting up the School Unlocked programme. I saw first hand the overwhelmingly positive effect it had on the pupils and teachers involved.”

School Unlocked, Graduate Teacher

Thomas’s Foundation continues to address the impact of COVID-19 through funding additional staff to support pupil mental health and well being, catch up in core curriculum subjects and the provision of outdoor learning activities.

Music Scholarships

The Foundation funds 32 music scholarships annually. Eight pupils a year are awarded a four year scholarship. This year auditions took place on-line.



Thomas’s Academy Programme

Thomas’s Foundation currently funds Speech and Language Therapy for 25 children 2 days a week.





Global COVID-19 Response

Distribution of self-learning activity booklets to more than 1000 children in Nepal and provision of PPE, soap and sanitiser, to enable teaching staff to make home visits.

Educational Awards

The final distribution to more than 600 beneficiaries in the current programme will take place before the close of 2020, together with a distribution of educational materials to 1650 children in Gorkha, who we have supported since the earthquakes in 2015.

Click [here](#) to see the impact of Educational Awards on the lives of some of our beneficiaries.



Library Programme

There are 56 CAIRN libraries. This is a five year programme. Thirty libraries have been handed back to the community. These libraries continue to thrive due to the focus and importance the library programme places on sustainability, through monitoring. 19 libraries are ongoing and seven are new projects.



Teacher Training

CAIRN has delivered teacher training to over 150 teachers across 23 schools. CAIRN also partners with the Gurkha Welfare Trust to deliver teacher training in its schools.

Training successfully delivered online to 32 teaching staff during lockdown.



From the Director

As this year draws to a close I hope you have enjoyed looking back at some of the Foundation's activities, during what has been an extraordinary year for everyone.

This year, we have seen the education gap widen yet further for the most vulnerable children. Mental health and well being have been significantly impacted and digital exclusion created yet a further barrier to equal access to education.

We have sought to address the impact of COVID-19 on children's education by adapting our regular programmes where possible and introducing targeted support to respond to the immediate priorities of partner schools.

We are truly thankful and grateful to our incredible supporters, and for the time, effort and goodwill of volunteers within the schools and wider Foundation community who have made the Foundation's first year a success in such challenging circumstances. Our especial thanks to the PTA teams who have adapted to virtual fundraising without breaking step, organising the most wonderful online Christmas Fairs. Your support is valued more than ever. If you are able to help please click [here](#).

For more information about the work of Thomas's Foundation please click [here](#), email woodcock@thomassfoundation.org.uk or call 020 3327 4177

Liz Woodcock, Executive Director
Thomas's Foundation

