



Make a Profit and Make a Difference 2026

Impact Report

Spring/Summer Programme



www.cforlp.org.uk

Key Social Enterprise Facts for Cumbria

The Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership (CSEP) report that:

- Cumbria has over 1,400 social enterprises, ranging in size from one person organisations to large co-operatives, health and education providers
- About £475m is generated and used within the local economy each year by social enterprises
- Cumbrian social enterprises hold combined assets of approximately £144m in buildings, equipment and financial reserves
- Over 11,000 people are employed by Cumbrian social enterprises
- Volunteering opportunities for around 15,000 people arise from Cumbrian social enterprises
- **The Centre for Leadership Performance is itself a social enterprise... and runs Bright Stars to help educate Cumbrian young people about what a social enterprise is and develop the employees, entrepreneurs and volunteers of the future.**



Bright Stars offers young people the opportunity to be inspired and see that their actions will be recognised and their voices will be heard. Pupils are exposed to positive role models from the world of business and the programme encourages leadership, building confidence as they showcase hidden talents and develop new skills.

Now in its thirteenth year, the programme enables children to learn through experience about key business principles like innovation, budgeting, problem solving and delivering deadlines, while linking with core curriculum subjects such as English, maths, design and technology.

For companies, Bright Stars creates on-going links with local primary schools, connects with young people and makes them aware of what the companies do, while positively impacting communities and providing development opportunities for staff who get involved.

Project Summary

- Over **387** pupils from **17** schools took part in Bright Stars
- **18** local businesses and organisations gave support (with at least **45** volunteers engaged across the schools)
- **17** social enterprises were created
- **Nearly £8k** was raised for local charities and to continue the schools' social enterprise projects from an initial £50 seed fund per school

TEACHER FEEDBACK

- 100%** want to join a future Bright Stars project
- 100%** achieved output results they wanted for their pupils and school
- 100%** felt they had created better community/business links for their school

The top skills that the pupils learnt (according to the teachers) were:

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Confidence
- Problem solving
- Leadership

PUPILS FEEDBACK

- 99%** had fun working on Bright Stars
- 90%** knew more about local jobs/careers
- 98%** thought they had learned new skills
- 84%** understood what leadership is now
- 90%** improved as a better team player and understood teamwork
- 87%** would consider running their own business in future

BUSINESS MENTORS FEEDBACK

- 100%** achieved the output results they wanted for themselves
- 100%** achieved the output results they wanted for their business
- 100%** felt they had created better community/business links for their school
- 100%** want to join a future Bright Stars project

The outcome percentages and graphics listed in this report have been gathered from the pre-and post-project impact surveys sent separately to pupils, schools and businesses.

Quotes and incidental evidence are taken from the surveys, as well as emails, weekly reports and general feedback received from the school and business leads.

*The impact and outcomes can be seen in the final montage **Bright Stars Project Film** on YouTube, use the link: <https://youtu.be/0hbkl0Gkxs8>*

Introduction

Make a Profit – Make a Difference

Seventeen schools across Cumbria took part over 12 weeks and the primary school pupils developed leadership, teamwork, marketing, accounting, creativity and communication skills – in fact, everything involved in running a business.

The mini entrepreneurs, who set up and ran their own social enterprises with the help of local companies and organisations, all delivered fantastic campaigns, which traded for 8 weeks and raised nearly £8k in profit to date. An amazing result!

Some of the schools intend to continue to develop and trade with their social enterprises and involve more pupils and people from the community.

Both schools and businesses stated they had made stronger relationships within their local community and the teachers and business mentors felt they had got a lot from taking part in the project too.

To measure the impact of the programme, surveys were sent out to all schools and business volunteers, both before and after the project. The pre-impact questions were collected on the registration forms for schools and businesses, which increased the response rate. We received the following returns:

- **Schools:** 17 surveys (100%) pre project and 4 (24%) surveys post project
- **Pupils:** 5 surveys (33%) pre project and 10 (59%) surveys post project
- **Businesses:** 17 surveys (95%) pre project and 10 (59%) surveys post project

NB: to increase the post project feedback, as well as the survey forms (listed above), we also ran separate online meetings for the businesses and schools after the Celebration Week, as well as undertook 1-2-1 conversations with them and received email comments.

Bright Stars helps pupils to plan and develop their creative ideas and then implement these skills to run a profitable social enterprise



Participating schools and businesses and their social enterprise projects

Go online to find out more about the Bright Stars social enterprises:

Watch the school project films on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK_8VmJahxk1Ay2QrSVyCOi7dnSmgcBUR

Read the school project weekly blogs online at:

<https://cforlp.org.uk/brightstars/bright-stars-spring-summer-2026/>

Read the Bright Stars Winner Announcement online at:

<https://cforlp.org.uk/news/bright-stars-spring-summer-2026-winners-announced/>

View the Bright Stars Celebration Film at:

Brisbane Park Infant School

Winner of Best and Most Positive Long-Term Impact

*partnered with The Royal Navy (HMS Dreadnought)
sponsored by BAE Systems Ltd*

Brisbane Park Infant School
Believe in Yourself



BAE SYSTEMS

The Brisbane Park Seeds of Kindness team used recycled paper and seeds to create plantable cards to encourage bees and make the environment nicer as the flowers grow. The team learnt British Sign Language (BSL) to make the school and community more inclusive. They held a community coffee morning and performed songs (with BSL) and sold their cards there.

Bright Stars has encompassed everything that I love about teaching. Children have had control over a project, developed their interaction with a wide range of people and spread happiness.



Flimby Primary School

partnered with Workington Town Community Trust

Flimby's 150 Year Summer Fayre team held an event to coincide with their school's 150th Birthday and a BIG LUNCH event. They produced things to sell, including decorated pots with strawberry or sunflower plants, bracelets, necklaces and homemade cakes. They raised £442.21 and for Hospice at Home West Cumbria.



Lots of children, who never would have volunteered to sell and speak to the public before this project, had a great time selling on stalls, speaking to customers and using their maths skills to give correct change.



Gosforth C of E Primary School

Highly Commended for Best Community Engagement

partnered with Mott MacDonald

The Kindness Crew made soaps, bracelets, 3D prints and cakes to sell to raise funds to create Kindness Kits for Calderwood House residents. The decorated bags included a handmade felted heart and toiletries.



This project has empowered young people to become active citizens, strengthened community connections and demonstrated how collective action can make a genuine difference to people's lives.



Inglewood Nursery and Infant School

Highly Commended for Best Team Work, Collaboration and Leadership

partnered with Eden Valley Hospice

The team created the Deer Café and made cakes to sell, as well as running a tombola with donated toys at a coffee morning.



Bright Stars has had a significant and positive impact on our school, as the children are now keen to organise coffee mornings and bake sales more frequently, which is something we have not done regularly in the past.



Jericho Primary School
Highly Commended for Best and Most Positive Long-Term Impact
partnered with UK National Nuclear Laboratory (UKNNL)



Once Upon a Popcorn created a library of donated books and sold popcorn, to encourage pupils to read more and help them to enjoy some quiet time while renting a book and eating popcorn.

We underestimated the level of engagement we would have when selling/reading, so we were very surprised when lots of children were bringing in money and coming to the library. The popcorn was the hook, but the love of reading came from this.



Langwathby C of E School
Highly Commended for Best Logo and Marketing Campaign
partnered with Hardwick Heritage sponsored by See It To Be It (Cumbria Arts and Culture Network)



The Crafty Badgers created a caricature photo booth for their village May Day, as well as making keyrings, bookmarks, coasters and rag wreaths to sell.

Our Crafty Badgers logo was unique and amazing! We worked hard to advertise our handcrafted products through posters, emails and social media.



Maryport C of E Primary School

Winner of Best Team Work, Collaboration and Leadership

partnered with Forth Engineering (West Cumbria)



FORTH®

The Lime Class Sock Rangers collected and recycled materials (buttons, socks and pillow stuffing) to make sock monkeys at a family sock making morning event. The sock monkeys were sold with a printed certificate of adoption and a 'how to look after your sock monkey' leaflet. They also made sweet bags to sell, along with lollipops and milkshakes.

The programme has had a positive impact on our school by developing pupils' confidence, teamwork and enterprise skills. It has strengthened links with families and the local community while helping children understand how they can make a real difference through social action and fundraising.



Monkway Junior School

partnered with GRAHAM



GRAHAM

The Monkway Monkeys helped celebrate their school's 150th anniversary by designing and producing a range of handmade craft items to sell. They also designed a bespoke 150th anniversary commemorative mug, which was given to all school pupils to celebrate the occasion, thanks to GRAHAM's generous support.

Bright Stars has provided meaningful, real-life learning experiences, strengthened relationships across the school community and empowered pupils to see how their ideas can create positive change, both within school and in the wider community.



Moor Row Community Primary School

Winner of Best Community Engagement

partnered with Bechtel & Cavendish Nuclear Solutions



BECHTEL **cavendish**
nuclear
part of Babcock International Group

To celebrate the school's 150th anniversary, Moor Row Memories researched their history, including interviewing older members of the community, to create a celebration book to sell. The book included all the photos and information they had collected.

We made some fantastic new links with people in our village that we hope to build on in the future. The children got a new respect for older people and how interesting they can be.



Ormsgill Nursery & Primary School

partnered with ARMMA (AtkinsRéalis Mott MacDonald Alliance)



The Busy Bumblebees designed motivational artwork to sell, making these into A4 laminated posters and keychains featuring bright, positive and inspirational messages. They also made and sold sweet packs and refreshing drinks. At their sale they offered face painting and glitter tattoos too, making use of their creative skills.

They loved seeing how the essential skills (teamwork, creativity, problem solving, etc) can relate to real life, which helped them understand the importance of these skills. We feel very fortunate to have been a part of it and have loved every minute!



Seascale Primary School

partnered with AECOM



The Freezy Friday team made and sold ice lollies at various events, including the School Sports Day. They raised funds to support Animal Concern Cumbria.

The class worked really well as a team. They have not done many tasks that require them working as a full class, so it is something they have had to learn to do.



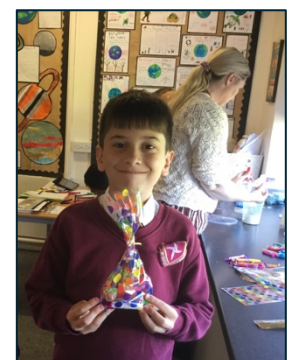
St Bridget's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

partnered with GRAHAM



The Year 5 Super Sellers ran Frosty Fridays, selling ice pops to the children in the school. They also made sweet pouches to sell at the school's summer fair.

The hard work, enthusiasm and excellent teamwork by the pupils helped make the Frosty Friday events a great success.



St Mark's CofE Primary School
partnered with Experience Lakeland
supported by Armstrong Watson and CforLP



St Mark's Busy Bees planted seeds to grow plants to sell at their plant sale. They raised £620 profit and will be reinvesting 50% into their Hidden Haven to further develop their garden and outdoor education area. They hope to grow veg and use it to cook with or sell at mini farmers market type sales in the future.



St Pius X Catholic Primary School
partnered with BAE Systems Ltd



BAE SYSTEMS

The Fluff Friends team created sock teddies using donated socks and sold over 90 of them. They raised £171.74 and supported the Diabetes UK charity.

The pupils learnt it is important to give to charity, especially ones that are socially relevant to the class.



Victoria Academy (Barrow)
Highly Commended for Most Profitable Social Enterprise
partnered with Oxley Developments



Victoria on the Rescue made cakes, popcorn, sweet cones and squishies to sell and then organised a cake sale at Oxley's (their business partner), a cake sale at the school and a movie night. They raised money for Mountain Rescue. This Bright Stars project achieved an exceptional profit of £1,522.60, just £15.40 short of the winning school!

Bright Stars has been a fantastic learning experience, developing confidence, teamwork, creativity and ambition whilst showing children that they can make a genuine difference to causes they care about.



Victoria Infant and Nursery School (Barrow)
Winner of Best Logo and Marketing Campaign
partnered with McLaughlin & Harvey
sponsored by BAE Systems Ltd



The Beautiful Bags Squad designed, made and sold hand painted, reusable bags with a positive message on them. They sold ice pops after school to raise extra funds throughout the project to fund their project.

Our children dramatically increased their teamwork, creativity and confidence. Partnering with the McLaughlin & Harvey team brought business to life. Most importantly, it proved to them that they can make a real, positive impact on their local community!



Victoria Infant School (Workington)
Winner of Most Profitable Social Enterprise
partnered with The Vicky (Cockermouth)
sponsored by NSG



WOW Wonders of Workington wanted to tell people all share how WOW Workington is. They created artwork and other enterprise products to sell at a WOW art exhibition, which they organised. The exhibition allowed them to share their learning about the town and local history. This project achieved the highest profit in the entire competition, raising an outstanding £1,538!

As always, the Bright Stars project has been welcomed by all in the school. This year all our pupils participated and it has been a fantastic experience.



School Feedback



It is an extremely positive response from schools, with **100%** achieving what they wanted from the project for both their pupils and the school itself. The skills developed are all important ones that the pupils can use throughout their other classes and social interactions, and build on for the future to help them have a better life in their workplace, family, friendships and beyond...

Although some had links with their business or local community already, the project has helped nurture established relationships and helped them get involved with and support the local area. Several teachers mentioned that the project often had revealed hidden talents in their pupils that were not necessarily as academically or socially involved in class too, creating new ways for them to engage in their education, plus gain friendships and confidence which reach further than the project.

The winning schools have also received a money prize, to help fund further project development.

There was a resounding thumbs up for Bright Stars!



Bright Stars Winner Visits (top to bottom) to:
Maryport C of E Primary School
Brisbane Park Infant School
Victoria Infant and
Nursery School (Barrow)



Bright Stars additional comments from the schools after completing Bright Stars:

The children took ownership of the project from start to finish.

The programme has opened the children's eyes to suffering in our area and gave them the opportunity to make a difference.



The children previously found working as a team hard. There are some big characters! They had to listen to each other and compromise. They had to be resilient and keep going.

The Bright Stars programme allowed my children to experience something new and something REAL. They had an incredible time and learnt so much.

This project has empowered young people to become active citizens, strengthened community connections and demonstrated how collective action can make a genuine difference to people's lives.

Bright Stars continues to have a hugely positive impact within our school. One of the most rewarding aspects of the programme has been seeing the growth in confidence across the cohort.

Bright Stars has been a truly rewarding experience that brought learning to life, strengthened relationships with families and showed the children the real impact they can have within their community.

Pupil feedback

Pupils had a lot to say after completing Bright Stars:

Bright Stars made me feel so grown up running a business – I am so proud that we helped people in our community.

Bright Stars has made us feel special, because we worked with different people, learnt new skills and made people smile.

It taught me lots about teamwork and leadership.

It has been a good experience. I have learnt that running a business takes lots of hard work.

I do not want Bright Stars to end.

We all learnt different things, because we did different jobs, but we all worked really well together and learnt how to work as a team.



I loved doing all the paperwork. It was great to do and I lived my job.

I loved learning how a real business works and visiting Oxley's. It taught me lots about teamwork and leadership. I feel really proud that we raised so much money for a charity we chose ourselves.

Teamwork is hard, but worth it.

We really enjoyed running a business and were happy to help people in our community who need it.

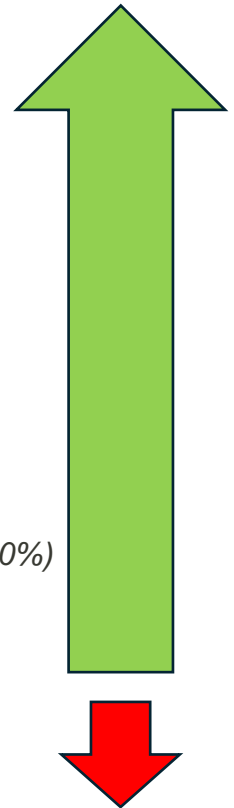
It has been very fun having the responsibility of running a business and learning about all the things that come with it. It was nice to be a positive role model for other people.

We never had an experience like this before, it has taught us a lot!

The direct quotes from the pupils about their Bright Stars experience (including the development of learning, enjoyment, friendship, understanding, confidence, pride in what they have achieved and ability to help others), shows the wide range of benefits for them from being involved in this project, both in skills and personal development.

The survey results collected from the pupils, collected pre- and post-project, showed an **INCREASE** in their understanding of the issues and skills addressed in the project.

- What a social enterprise is (*from 5% to 81%*)
- The UN Global Sustainability Goals (*from 8% to 59%*)
- Local jobs and careers (*from 80% to 90%*)
- Leadership (*from 67% to 83%*)
- Confidence levels (*from 59% to 86%*)
- Ability to make a difference and volunteer in future (*from 33% to 84%*)
- Wanted to consider starting their own business (*from 63% to 87%*)
- Felt they worked hard at school and dreamt of a big future (*from 84% to 90%*)
- Effectiveness as a team player and understanding of teamwork (*from 79% to 90%*)



Significantly, there were NO areas that showed a decrease for pupils from taking part in this project!

The pupils gained an insight into the world of commerce and developed basic business and financial skills, whilst building their confidence, team working ability and community/environmental awareness. Plus, they have had fun whilst learning and developed an awareness of how they can be involved in, and influence, change in their local community.



99% of the pupils declared they had fun working on their Bright Stars project.

97% stated they had developed new skills through being part of it, which will be a basic, but valuable start to their career and adult life.

84% of pupils pledged that they will continue to make a difference in future.

This is a positive outcome for the future... It is clear the pupils gained a lot from taking part, developing skills and links with the local community, as well as having new aspirations for the future. The money raised will be a considerable help for their chosen charities, as well their own ongoing and community projects too.

Another thumbs up for Bright Stars!



Business mentor feedback



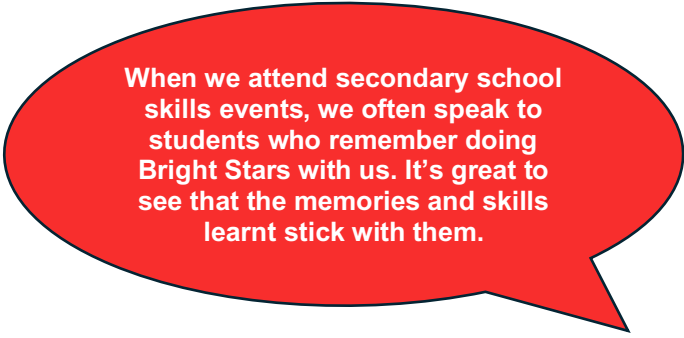
It is extremely positive that **100%** of businesses showed overall satisfaction with the outcomes they achieved and **100%** of volunteers had achieved their own personal outcomes for Bright Stars too. This confirms that it is not just the pupils and schools that gain from being part of the project.

All businesses thought they had built stronger links with the schools/community, even if they were existing relationships – some of these through previous CforLP project partnerships.

The businesses involved have often been amazed at the learning they and their staff acquire as they offer support and strengthen their own community and social impact commitments. The feedback frequently mentions the enjoyment, personal development and satisfaction the business lead gets from interacting with pupils that have imaginative ideas and enthusiasm, but need commercial skills to make things work in reality. Some volunteers stated they had also enhanced their own leadership, listening and communication skills through working with the pupils on Bright Stars too.

The adults have reported having fun being involved in Bright Stars too!

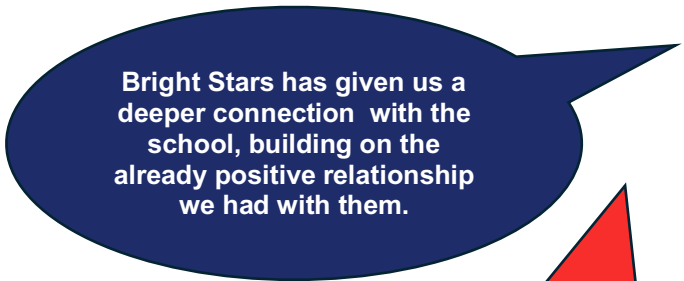
Businesses made the following comments after completing Bright Stars:



When we attend secondary school skills events, we often speak to students who remember doing Bright Stars with us. It's great to see that the memories and skills learnt stick with them.



Working within heritage sector you often don't think of yourself as running a business as such. With this project I realised how much I have learned about running a business over the years and was able to share that experience.



Bright Stars has given us a deeper connection with the school, building on the already positive relationship we had with them.



Bright Stars enabled us to make a positive contribution to the local community while supporting the chosen charity.



This is our 10th year taking part as a business and it is always an amazing project that we are keen to continue taking part in.



Bright Stars provided meaningful volunteering opportunities for employees to get involved in skills outreach.

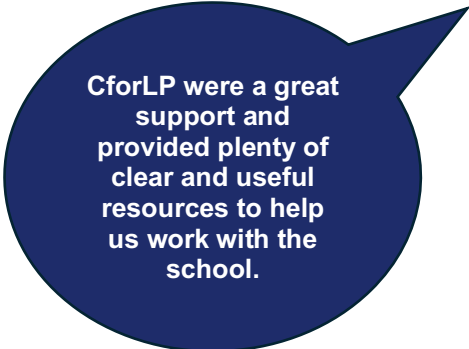
Businesses made more comments after completing Bright Stars:

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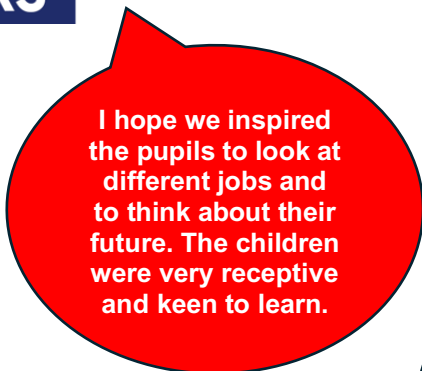
We promoted our business and shared knowledge about the wider nuclear industry. We developed a positive working relationship with the school.

A green speech bubble with a black outline, containing white text.

We developed our skills in communicating and working with children.

A dark blue speech bubble with a black outline, containing white text.

CforLP were a great support and provided plenty of clear and useful resources to help us work with the school.

A red speech bubble with a black outline, containing white text.

I hope we inspired the pupils to look at different jobs and to think about their future. The children were very receptive and keen to learn.

A dark blue speech bubble with a black outline, containing white text.

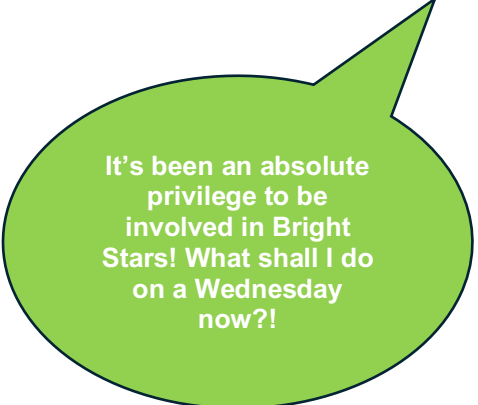
We enjoyed Bright Stars – it was our first experience of the programme – the children were amazing and it was great to see their enjoyment for their project.

A red speech bubble with a black outline, containing white text.

It is rewarding to see the students not just learn valuable skills but have fun whilst doing so.

A green speech bubble with a black outline, containing white text.

We've enjoyed the Bright Stars initiative. The whole school and community focused approach made the coordination and delivery of the programme quite complex, but they met the challenge with relentless enthusiasm and endless smiles and laughter.

A green speech bubble with a black outline, containing white text.

It's been an absolute privilege to be involved in Bright Stars! What shall I do on a Wednesday now?!

A dark blue speech bubble with a black outline, containing white text.

Having never done this project before, I'd just like to say how much I have enjoyed the experience. The school and pupils were an absolute joy to work with and it sounds like we may have inspired some mini entrepreneurs.

The Local Community

The local community benefits from the money raised, closer working relationships and raised awareness of local issues, as well as helping to secure future interest, commitment and enthusiasm for their area from the young people growing up there.

By showing the possibilities and range of local careers on offer, it may also encourage more young people to stay in the area when they embark on their working life.

As previously mentioned, this Bright Stars project raised nearly £8k to date. Some of the profit has been invested back into the primary school projects for them to continue, with the rest being shared with the following organisations, chosen by the Bright Stars pupils:



(Calderwood House)



(Highfield House, Whitehaven)



(Children's Ward)

As well as:

- Children's Hospital Ward (treating leukaemia)
- FOVISA (Friends of Victoria Infant School Association)
- Furness Homeless Shelter

Future Bright Stars Projects

The outcome from such positive engagement with Bright Stars, is that pledges for future participation in the project are high.



100% of businesses and schools would like to be involved in a future Bright Stars project. This is tremendous news and confirms the benefits from, and enjoyment in, taking part.

Bright Stars is a rolling programme and many schools and businesses have already signed up for a future Bright Stars project, either starting in April or October (or both!).

Finally, the longevity and continued development potential through Bright Stars for pupils, the school and the local community can be seen in two new case study films:

Victoria Junior School (Welfare Packages): <https://youtube.com/shorts/aXH8YH-6dfq?feature=share>

Pennington C of E Primary School (Penn Pals): <https://youtube.com/shorts/Ks8fZpiyDvc?feature=share>

The positive commitment to the Bright Stars project shows that all involved see it as a very beneficial, positive and fun project to be part of, with all parties involved learning from the experience, not just the pupils!

Thanks to all those that supported Bright Stars in 2026:



www.cforlp.org.uk/bright-stars-primary

A bit about us – The Centre for Leadership Performance (CforLP)

CforLP have high aspirations for the people and businesses within Cumbria, and we believe that **everyday leadership** is key in leveraging the potential that exists in our schools, communities and workplace. We are a small purpose driven not for profit social enterprise working to build leadership aspirations, potential, and capabilities for the people of Cumbria, because we believe better leadership means better lives for everyone.

We adopt a place-based long-term approach to developing leadership skills, aspirations and capabilities whilst promoting, nurturing and encouraging **life-long leadership learning**.

Rather than silos of provision, we want to continue to build and expand our inclusive integrated **leadership pathway** that extends from **primary through to retirement**, working collaboratively with other providers and partners to make real long-term impact.



This year we have spent time developing and building the foundations for future growth and impact – we are incredibly proud of all our collaborative work across the County.

Can YOU help us develop the workforce for the future?

Businesses

With more schools registering interest each year, we are seeking organisations that share our commitment to developing future leaders. Whether through volunteering, partnership, sponsorship or community investment, your support can help ensure more young people benefit from Bright Stars while providing valuable development opportunities for your employees. We would love to start a conversation about how your organisation could be part of the next chapter of Bright Stars.

Schools

Would your pupils benefit from the skills they can develop taking part in Bright Stars? It is a fun way for them to learn, be inspired and to make a difference!

We are already looking for organisations to support our next Bright Stars projects – could that be YOU?



Thank you

Contact us now with any Bright Stars questions or to register an interest:

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