

HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1164043

Details

Other names HOT

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-10-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 18 Kingsley Drive
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 5AE

Phone 07804164565

Email john.denny2013@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS FROM EXISTING AND EMERGING SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING ONGOING SUPPORT AND BURSARIES TO ENABLE ACCESS TO FURTHER EDUCATION.

Activities: To support students within the North West from communities that have been labelled socially and economically deprived to study A Levels at the top boarding schools within Great Britain. Students must have the potential and ambition to study at University. In partnership we have placed over 120 students in independent schools and we have a pool of students wishing to enter the process each year.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£77,117	£66,402	-	-
2024-04-30	£56,553	£59,930	-	-
2023-04-30	£64,745	£64,718	-	-
2022-04-30	£90,922	£30,946	-	-
2021-04-30	£52,065	£63,561	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Meurig Owen	Chair	2020-11-03
JOHN DENNY		2012-10-31
Paul James Knight		2024-06-16
SUSAN YATES		2012-10-31

HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1164043

Accounts

Hope Opportunity Trust Annual Report and Audit Certificate

01 04 24 to 31 03 25.

Charity Number: 1164043

Contents

1. Overview
2. Our values and how we work.
3. Impact
4. Charity structure, status & governance
5. Some highlights from 24/25
6. Audit Certificate

1. Overview

HOT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose mission is to change lives and transform the opportunities available to young people with extraordinary talent and potential. Our students are young people who have been denied opportunities but have risen to life's challenges in a unique and inspiring way.

We offer students fully funded bursary places at some of the finest schools in the UK. These bursaries are supported by the Royal National Springboard Children's Foundation (RNCSF) and by direct funding from the receiving/host schools. We are proud to be in partnership with the RNCSF, and since 2013, this has realised over £10M of bursary place investment for over one hundred and twenty students with minimal operating costs.

Our aims are clear and practicable, but their impacts can be incalculable. Our outputs are transformed lives: nurturing young citizens who will reach their potential and are enthusiastic about giving back to their communities and society.

'The most significant impact of the bursary is that it has broadened my viewpoint of my future and the world. I was able to challenge myself amongst some of the brightest students in the country- something that the competitive part of me loved and continues to build on. My world has extended, and I have built a network of people I would never have met without the bursary. I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity and what it has enabled me to do for my community.' - **A HOT student.**

2. Our values and how we work

Collaboration

In meeting our formal objectives, we balance our responsibilities to our students, school partners, and communities by working with state schools through a focused, supportive partnership. This helps the whole school and its local community to raise aspiration and achievement.

Create Opportunity

The student, their family and community are our most important considerations, and we do whatever is in their best interests to nurture talent that might otherwise be lost to society. We are not motivated by politics or ideology, but we were mindful of the history associated with boarding

school education and the perceived culture of privilege. The chance to challenge and change that culture has been fully vindicated. We are also mindful of the obstacles and barriers that impact the outcomes for young people who live and are educated in areas of high social disadvantage. Our programme prepares students to overcome those barriers, ensuring our young people reach their true potential. Both the sending and receiving communities benefit from this initiative.

Make a positive difference.

The positive impacts we have witnessed, and our students' personal stories, drive us forward and inspire HOT to continue its mission.

'As a parent, I cannot believe the opportunity that my daughter has been given, and she has seized it with both hands. Through this programme, she was guided and supported to achieve excellent A Level results and a first-class degree. She is now forging a career and has a network of friends and colleagues that she would never have met without this opportunity.'

As a family, this programme has changed us too. Anything is possible with hard work and the right direction. This has been life-changing for us all. '

'We, as a family, are extremely happy that Roya has been given such an amazing opportunity. This bursary has shown both Roya and her siblings that hard work does not go to waste, and is rewarded. Roya's siblings are inspired, and they are hoping that in the future they may be able to get similar opportunities. This scheme has also helped Roya to keep up her hard work and her good grades as she sees that it is paying off and that she is getting a rewarding feeling from it.' – **A Parent.**

How we work

HOT operates through a close and collaborative partnership network, working hand in hand with the Royal National Springboard Foundation, state schools, boarding schools, students, and their families. This partnership model is fundamental to HOT's mission, enabling a joined-up approach to supporting young people and ensuring that all parties are actively involved in the process.

Within HOT Member schools, bursary students are identified by their teachers and Heads using strict and consistent criteria. These criteria focus on family income, challenging personal or familial circumstances, and the anticipated benefit to the student of a fully funded boarding school experience. This careful selection process ensures that places are awarded to those who stand to gain the most from the programme.

The HOT operating model is relatively unique, placing the state school and its community at the centre of its engagement approach, setting it apart from similar initiatives. Partner schools regularly provide testimony to the positive impact of their collaboration with HOT, underscoring the value and effectiveness of this approach. The impressive resilience and determination shown by the students, combined with consistent and personalised support from the HOT team, have contributed to the programme's success.

The diversity of HOT's student body reflects a commitment to equality, equity, and access to the bursary programme. Students are selected regardless of gender or ethnicity, ensuring that opportunities are open to all who meet the established criteria and stand to benefit from the scheme.

3. Impact

The most powerful testimony on behalf of our work is the stories of our students. Their words, achievements, and lived experiences can be more eloquent than mission statements or measurable outputs. They validate our fundamental conviction that by radically changing prospects and opportunities for individuals, we can begin to deliver positive social change in ways we could never have predicted or imagined.

We have many stories to give, but here are just two comments from more detailed assessments of the student's experience to indicate the impact.

From Marcel's story

"The programme has shown me that life is a box of opportunities, and anything is possible with hard work and self-belief."

From Amber's story

"I cannot believe what happened to me. I am following a path that I didn't know existed."

4. Charity structure, status & governance

HOT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This legal entity is specific to the charity sector and ensures that HOT follows all charity rules and regulations and is 'safe' to invest in.

Our objective is *"the advancement of education for students from existing and emerging socially and economically deprived communities by providing ongoing support and bursaries to enable access to further education."*

History

The founding idea came from the CEO of a Cheshire-based housing association, who saw no reason why talented students from estates labelled as "disadvantaged" would not flourish if given access to schools such as Rugby, Cheltenham Ladies' College, and Eton.

Working with the CEO of Urban Hope, the then Heads of, Blacon High School, Chester, and Eton the Hope Opportunity Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation (HOT) was launched at a partnership event held at Windsor Castle on 31st October 2012, with an aspiration to send at least one student to Eton College, which has been met and exceeded beyond all reasonable expectations.

In 2013, two students from Liverpool attended Eton 6th form. Since then, circa 200 students from HOT Member schools in Cheshire, Merseyside, and now Stoke have benefited from boarding education at one of many welcoming public schools across the UK.

Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation

HOT, proud of its longstanding membership of and partnership with Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation (RNCSF) (www.royalspringboard.org.uk), without which HOT would not have grown into the charity it has now become. Both organisations were founded around the same time and have built a strong, collaborative relationship that has enabled many young people to experience two years of sixth form boarding.

People

HOT is a small team with a unique range of skills and experiences. It provides the knowledge, expertise, and networks to reach deep into northern communities and build relationships, ensuring that the bursary programme delivers a positive 'ripple' effect into the wider community. This is evidenced through the outcome of our joint work in Blacon, Cheshire, and across Merseyside.

Trustees - Volunteers

- **David Owen- Chair**
Barrister 1984-2013. Consultant, Trainer, and Independent Investigator since 2011.
- **John Denny – CEO and Trustee**
Hot founder and CEO.
- **Sue Yates – Director of Operations and Trustee**
The former head of Blacon High School, the founding school for the HOT initiative in the North West.
- **Colette Wilkinson- trustee**
The first project manager for HOT.
- **Paul Knight**
Social Housing Consultant

Colleagues

John Denny CEO

Sue Yates, Director of Operations

Sue Tedford, Project Manager

Robin Oldman, Project Manager

Clare Hamm, Finance Manager

5. Some highlights from 2024-25

In 2024-2025, the financial contribution made by Springboard to HOT, along with the membership contributions from our member schools for the financial year, has maintained the ongoing sustainability of the Hope Opportunity Trust (CIO) to continue:

Supporting Students:

HOT has supported 50 students from Years 11, 12, and 13, as well as students moving from Year 13 into university places or gap years. In addition, we support Year 10/11 students preparing to apply for places, and this usually involves around 20 students. In this period, 27 students entered the programme from year 10.

In years 10 and 11, the support covers one-to-one mentoring and group sessions on pertinent topics, including guidance on securing grades, interview preparation, liaison with key personnel in boarding schools, accompanying students on visits, exam preparation, and revision. In effect, our programme managers have devised and delivered a planned programme in schools to support and build the confidence of our potential bursary students.

In Years 12/13, the support includes mentoring from a student who was previously on the bursary programme. The programme is based on a scheduled meeting every three weeks, focused on a carefully crafted personal development plan. The mentors and mentees are trained to make the most of mentoring and receive ongoing support and guidance. They also provide feedback,

informing us of positive changes and amendments to continually improve our mentoring programme and better meet students' needs.

All students mentored through this programme in the last year have benefited, and many have volunteered and received training to begin mentoring next year.

In addition, our programme managers support students whose needs are identified through the RNCSF STEER process, not forgetting the invaluable relationships that students build and benefit from with their boarding house masters and mistresses.

Our alumni are also supported. We maintain a directory of our alumni and make direct contact each year to keep our links up to date and ensure that our students' profiles are accurate. This year, we have linked with seventy alumni and added their progress to our directory.

Supporting parents/ carers and families

We offer a planned support and guidance programme for our parents/ carers. This year, Sue Tedford, one of our programme managers, led this. Sue has delivered sessions on relevant topics and led a parents' WhatsApp group. This has been actively used to support parents/carers with any questions or issues they have encountered. It has also been a vehicle for celebrating achievements and building resilience and confidence.

Our programme managers are the link between students, parents, and boarding schools. They provide uniform and financial information from the boarding schools to parents, and, with the boarding schools, arrange travel at weekends and half term, for example, and provide support as and when appropriate to students and parents. This aspect of the programme has a positive impact on the students' transition from a home state school to the boarding environment. It also builds bridges among students, parents/carers, and the boarding school, increasing the likelihood of a more successful bursary for all involved.

RNCSF is increasingly focused on reaching young people with care experience, and HOT will do whatever it can to support that development.

Supporting our schools and growth

This year, Sue Tedford and Robin Oldman continued to strengthen the role of the in-school coordinators of our member schools. They ensure that good practice is shared across our family of schools. From this, they continue to craft a process to ensure that all schools have a solid, efficient, and equitable method for identifying and supporting potential bursary students.

The internal restructuring undertaken in previous years has effectively increased resources to support schools and students in Stoke and the North West. This approach ensures comprehensive support for bursary students, their families, and both state and independent schools. Such outcomes have been achieved through HOT's dedicated partnership with RNCSF and their shared commitment to creating opportunities that enable young people to embark on transformative journeys benefiting themselves and society as a whole.

So, it's been a great 2024/5 for HOT, but that's really down to people from all walks of life who care enough to make life better and do something about it. So, a huge thank you to Sue Yates, whose love and passion for helping young people to realise their potential is just wonderful and a massive part of what HOT is.

John

John Denny

CEO and Trustee

7. Audit Certificate and Reserves Policy

As a CIO, HOT, with a gross income above £25K but below £500K, requires an independent examination, the certificate for which is given below.

HOT's reserves policy is to hold sufficient cash in the bank to ensure that all responsibilities to our students and partners can be fulfilled for two years should the trustees of HOT find it necessary to cease operations.

PRO FORMA AUDIT CERTIFICATE

Section 1: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PERSON AUDITING THE UNOFFICIAL FUNDS

I have examined the records and supporting documents relating to the following unofficial funds belonging to HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST

	Fund Name	Period Audited	
		From	To
1	HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST	01.04.24	31.03.25
2			
3			

I verify that they form an accurate record of the transactions which have occurred and the balances which are held.

Signed J. Parker Date 08.01.26

Please print name in full Jane Parker Bookkeeping Services Ltd

Address 5 Newry Court, Chester
Cheshire Post Code CH2 2AZ

Telephone Number 07957 858742

Qualification/Experience to act as Auditor Over 30 years + experience in all aspects of Accounts and Audit preparation

Fund Auditor's Comments

Further information on any aspect of our work is available upon request.

Contact: John Denny, CEO at john.denny2013@gmail.com

HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1164043

Accounts

AGM Agenda Item 2.

Hope Opportunity Trust Annual Report and Financial Statement Charity Number: 1164043 01 04 23 to 31 03 24.

Contents

1. Overview
2. Our values and how we work.
3. Impact
4. Charity structure, status & governance
5. Some highlights from 22/23
6. Audit Certificate

1. Overview

HOT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose mission is to change lives and transform the opportunities available for young people who have extraordinary talent and potential. Our students are young people who have been denied advantage and opportunity but have risen to life's challenges in a unique and inspiring way.

We offer students fully funded bursary places at some of the finest schools in the UK. These bursaries are supported by the Royal National Springboard Children's Foundation (RNCSF) and some direct funding from the receiving/host schools. We are proud to be in partnership with the RNCSF, and since 2013, this has realised over £10M of bursary place investment for over one hundred and twenty students with minimal operating costs.

Our aims are clear and practicable, but their impacts can be incalculable. Our outputs are transformed lives: nurturing young citizens who will reach their potential and are enthusiastic about giving back to their communities and society.

'The most significant impact of the bursary is that it has broadened my viewpoint of my future and the world. I was able to challenge myself amongst some of the brightest students in the country- something that the competitive part of me loved and continues to build on. My world has extended, and I have built a network of people I would never have met without the bursary. I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity and what it has enabled me to do for my community.' - **A HOT student.**

2. Our values and how we work

Collaboration

In meeting our formal objectives, we balance our responsibilities to our students, school partners, and communities by working with state schools in a focused and supportive partnership. This helps the whole school and its local community to raise aspiration and achievement.

Creating Opportunity

The student, their family and community are our most important considerations, and we do whatever is in their best interests to nurture talent that might otherwise be lost to society. We are not motivated by politics or ideology, but we were mindful of the history associated with boarding school education and the perceived culture of privilege. The chance to challenge and change that culture has been fully vindicated. We are also mindful of the obstacles and barriers that impact the outcomes for young people who live and are educated in areas of high social disadvantage. Our programme prepares the students to overcome those barriers to ensure our young people reach their true potential. It is the case that both the sending and receiving communities benefit from this initiative.

Making a Difference

The positive impacts we have witnessed, and our students' personal stories drive us forward and inspire HOT to continue its mission.

'As a parent, I cannot believe the opportunity that my daughter has been given, and she has seized it with both hands. Through this programme, she was guided and supported to achieve excellent A Level results and a first-class degree. She is now forging a career and has a network of friends and colleagues that she would never have met without this opportunity.'

As a family, this programme has changed us too. Anything is possible with hard work and the right direction. This has been life-changing for us all. '

'We, as a family, are extremely happy that Roya has been given such an amazing opportunity. This bursary has shown both Roya and her siblings that hard work does not go to waste, and is rewarded. Roya's siblings are inspired, and they are hoping that in the future they may be able to get similar opportunities. This scheme has also helped Roya to keep up her hard work and her good grades as she sees that it is paying off and that she is getting a rewarding feeling from it.' – **A Parent.**

How we work

HOT works through close collaborative partnerships with the Royal National Springboard Foundation, state schools, boarding schools, students, and their families.

The bursary students are identified in the four HOT Member schools by their teachers and Heads according to strict and consistent criteria of income, challenging family circumstances and the potential benefit to that student of a

fully funded boarding experience. More than one hundred students have seized these opportunities.

We were the first charity in the country to work with state schools in this way, and all our partner schools provide testimony to the positive impact of their collaboration with HOT. Due to the impressive resilience of the students and consistent, personalised support from the HOT team, only two have withdrawn from a place since 2013. The profile of our students demonstrates our commitment to equality, equity, and access to the bursary programme, irrespective of gender and ethnicity.

3. Impact

The most powerful testimony on behalf of our work is the stories of our students. Their words, achievements, and lived experiences can be more eloquent than mission statements or measurable outputs. They validate our fundamental conviction that by radically changing prospects and opportunities for individuals, we can begin to deliver positive social change in ways we could never have predicted or imagined.

We have many stories to give, but here are just two comments from more detailed assessments of the student's experience to indicate the impact.

From Marcel's story

"The programme has shown me that life is a box of opportunities, and anything is possible with hard work and self-belief."

From Amber's story

"I cannot believe what happened to me. I am following a path that I didn't know existed,"

4. Charity structure, status & governance

HOT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This legal entity is specific to the charity sector and ensures that HOT follows all charity rules and regulations and is 'safe' to invest in.

Our objective is *"the advancement of education for students from existing and emerging socially and economically deprived communities by providing ongoing support and bursaries to enable access to further education."*

History

The founding idea came from the CEO of a Cheshire-based housing association who saw no reason talented students from estates labelled as "disadvantaged" would not flourish if given access to schools such as Rugby, Cheltenham Ladies College, and Eton.

Working with the CEO of Urban Hope and the then Head of Blacon High School Chester, the Hope Opportunity Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation (HOT) was launched at a partnership event held at Windsor Castle on 31st October 2012 with an aspiration to send at least one student to Eton College.

In 2013, two students from Liverpool attended Eton 6th form. Since then, over one hundred and thirty students from HOT Member schools in Cheshire and

Merseyside have benefited from a boarding education in one of twenty-two schools throughout the UK.

Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation

In addition to established working relationships with our member schools and the increasing numbers of boarding schools, HOT is proud to have a longstanding partnership with the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation (RNCSF) www.royalspringboard.org.uk. Both organisations were founded around the same time and have enjoyed a fruitful and close relationship, enabling over one hundred and twenty young people to benefit from a two-year sixth form boarding experience.

The HOT Team

HOT is a small team with a unique range of skills and experiences. It provides the knowledge, expertise, and networks to reach deep into northern communities and build relationships to ensure that the bursary programme delivers a positive 'ripple' effect into the wider community. This is evidenced through the outcome of our joint work in Blacon, Cheshire, and across Merseyside.

Trustees - Volunteers

- **David Owen- Chair**
Barrister 1984-2013. Consultant, Trainer, and Independent Investigator since 2011.
- **John Denny - CEO and Trustee**
Hot founder and CEO.
- **Sue Yates - Director of Operations and Trustee**
The former head of Blacon High School, the founding school for the HOT initiative in the North West.
- **Colette Wilkinson- trustee**
The first project manager for HOT.
- **Marcel Aziamale**
One of the first HOT students
- **Krysten Chantrelle**
Alumni Support Lead, London Academy of Excellence
- **Paul Knight**
Social Housing Consultant
- **Richard Hynes**
Senior Consultant and former public school student

Colleagues

John Denny CEO

Sue Yates, Director of Operations

Sue Tedford, Project Manager

Robin Oldman, Project Manager

Clare Hamm, Finance Manager – Part-time

5. Some highlights from 2023-24

In 2023-2024, the financial contribution made by Springboard to HOT, along with the membership contributions from our member schools for the financial year, has maintained the ongoing sustainability of the Hope Opportunity Trust (CIO) to continue:

Supporting Students:

HOT has supported fifty students from Years 12 and 13 / and students moving from Year 13 into university places or gap years. In addition, we support Year 10 / 11 students who are preparing to apply for places, and this is usually about twenty students.

In years 10 and 11, the support covers one-to-one mentoring, group sessions on pertinent topics, guidance on securing grades, interview preparation, liaison with key personnel in boarding schools, accompanying students on visits, exam preparation, and revision. Our programme managers have devised and delivered a planned programme in schools to support and build the confidence of our potential bursary students.

In the last year, seventeen students have secured bursary places.

In Years 12/ 13, the support includes mentoring from a student previously on the bursary programme. The programme rests on three weekly meetings focused on a carefully crafted personal development plan. The mentors and mentees are trained and receive ongoing help and guidance. They also provide feedback, informing us of changes and amendments we have made to our mentoring programme.

Sixteen students have been mentored through this programme in the last year, and eleven students have been trained to begin mentoring next year.

In addition, our programme managers contribute to the work to support students identified through the STEER process.

Our alumni are also supported. We maintain a directory of our alumni and make direct contact each year to keep our links and ensure that our students' profiles are maintained and accurate. This year, we have linked with seventy alumni and added their progress to our directory.

Supporting parents/ carers and families

We offer a planned support and guidance programme for our parents/ carers. This year, Sue Tedford, one of our programme managers, led this. Sue has delivered sessions on relevant topics and led a parents' What's App group. This has been actively used to support parents/ carers with any questions or issues they have experienced. It has also been a vehicle for celebrating achievements and building resilience and confidence.

Our programme managers are the link between students, parents, and boarding schools. They provide uniform and financial information from the boarding schools to parents, and with boarding schools, they arrange travel at weekends and half term, for example, and provide support as and when appropriate to students and parents. The impact of this aspect of the programme facilitates the

student's transition from home state school to the boarding environment. It also builds bridges between the student, parent/carers, and the boarding school to improve the likelihood of a more successful bursary for all involved.

Supporting our schools

This year, Sue Tedford and Robin Oldman continued to strengthen the role of the in-school coordinators of our member schools. They ensure that good practice is shared across our family of schools. From this, they continue to craft a process to ensure that all schools have a solid and efficient equitable method of identifying and supporting potential bursary students.

Operational restructure

Last year, our funding and internal restructure enabled HOT to extend our staffing to two programme managers and secure a leadership structure in the charity. This has helped us implement our future development plan and build greater financial independence. It will also ensure that our students, families, and their communities are supported more directly, extending the impact of our work even further.

John

John Denny

CEO and Trustee

6. Audit Certificate

As a CIO HOT, with a gross income above £25K but below £500K, HOT only requires an independent examination, the certificate for which is given below.

HOT's reserves policy is to hold sufficient cash in the bank to ensure that all responsibilities to our students and partners can be fulfilled for two years should the trustees of HOT find it necessary to cease operations.

Further financial details are available upon request.

Contact:

John Denny, CEO at john.denny2013@gmail.com

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2			
3			

I verify that they form an accurate record of the transactions which have occurred and the balances held

Signed J Parker Date 14.11.2024

Please print name in full Jane Parker Bookkeeping Services Ltd

Address 5 Newry Court, Chester
Cheshire, CH22AZ

Telephone Number 07957 858742

Qualification/Experience to act as Auditor Over 30 years + experience in all aspects of Accounts and Audit preparation

Fund Auditor's Comments

HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1164043

Accounts

Hope Opportunity Trust Annual Report and Financial Statement Charity Number: 1164043 01 05 22 to 30 04 23

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We are offering students fully funded bursary places at some of the finest schools in the UK. These bursaries are funded by the Royal National Springboard Children's Foundation (RNCSF) and some direct funding from the receiving/host schools. We are proud to be in partnership with the RNCSF and since 2013 this has realised over £10M of bursary place investment for over one hundred and twenty students with minimal operating costs.

Too many lives are blighted by disadvantage and too much potential is squandered through restricted access to opportunity and education. Every thwarted ambition and every unfulfilled talent diminishes and impoverishes our communities.

Our aims are clear and practicable, but their impacts can be incalculable. Our outputs are transformed lives: nurturing young citizens who will not only reach their potential but who are also enthusiastic about giving back to their communities and wider society.

'The most significant impact of the bursary is that it has broadened my viewpoint of my future and the world. I was able to challenge myself amongst some of the brightest students in the country- something that the competitive part of me loved and continues to build on. My world has extended, and I have built a network of people I would never have met without the bursary. I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity and what it has enabled me to do for my community.' - **A HOT student**

2. Our values and how we work

Collaboration

In meeting our formal objectives, we balance our responsibilities to our students, our school partners, and our communities, by working with state schools in a focused and supportive partnership, helping the whole school and its local community to raise aspirations and achievement.

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The student, their family and community are our most important considerations, and we do whatever is in their best interests to nurture talent that might otherwise be lost to society. We are not motivated by politics or ideology, but we were mindful of the history associated with boarding school education and the perceived culture of privilege. The chance to challenge and change that culture has been fully vindicated. We are also mindful of the obstacles and barriers that impact on the outcomes for young people who live and are educated in areas of high social disadvantage. Our programme prepares the students to overcome those barriers to ensure that our young people reach their true potential. It is the case that both the sending and receiving communities benefit from this initiative.

Making a Difference

It is the positive impacts we have witnessed and the personal stories of our students that drive us forward and inspire HOT to continue its mission.

'As a parent, I cannot believe the opportunity that my daughter has been given and she has seized it with both hands. Through this programme, she was guided and supported to achieve amazing A Level results and a first-class degree. She is now forging a career and has a network of friends and colleagues that she would never have met without this opportunity.

As a family, this programme has changed us too. Anything is possible with hard work and the right direction. This has been life-changing for us all. '

'We, as a family, are extremely happy that Roya has been given such an amazing opportunity. This bursary has shown both Roya and her siblings that hard work does not go to waste, and is rewarded. Roya's siblings are inspired, and they are hoping that in the future they may be able to get similar opportunities. This scheme has also helped Roya to keep up her hard work and her good grades as she sees that it is paying off and that she is getting a rewarding feeling from it.' - **A Parent**

How we work

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The bursary students are identified in the four HOT Member schools by their teachers and Heads according to strict and consistent criteria of income, challenging family circumstances and the potential benefit to that student of a fully funded boarding experience. More than one hundred students have seized these opportunities.

We were the first charity in the country to work with state schools in this way, and all our partner schools provide testimony to the positive impact of their collaboration with HOT. Due to the impressive resilience of the students and consistent, personalised support from the HOT team, only two have withdrawn from a place since 2013. The profile of our students demonstrates our commitment to equality, equity, and access to the bursary programme irrespective of gender and ethnicity.

3. Impact

The most powerful testimony on behalf of our work is the stories of our students. Their words and achievements, and their lived experience can be more eloquent than mission statements or measurable outputs. They validate our fundamental conviction, that by radically changing prospects and opportunities for individuals, we can begin to deliver positive social change in ways we could never have predicted or imagined.

We have many stories to give but here are just two comments taken from much more detailed assessments by the students of their experience to indicate the impact.

From Marcel's story

"The programme has shown me that life is a box of opportunities, and anything is possible with hard work and self-belief."

From Amber's story

"I cannot believe what happened to me. I am following a path that I didn't know existed,"

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Working with the CEO of Urban Hope and the then Head of Blacon High School Chester, the Hope Opportunity Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation (HOT)

was launched at a partnership event held at Windsor Castle on 31st October 2012 with an aspiration to send at least one student to Eton College.

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In addition to established working relationships with the current four member schools and the increasing numbers of boarding schools, HOT is proud to have a longstanding partnership with the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation (RNCSF) www.royalspringboard.org.uk. Both organisations were founded around the same time and have enjoyed a fruitful and close relationship, enabling over one hundred and twenty young people so far to benefit from a two-year sixth-form boarding experience.

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HOT is a small team that has a unique range of skills and experiences, providing the knowledge, expertise, and networks to reach deep into northern communities and build relationships to ensure that the bursary programme delivers a positive 'ripple' effect into the wider community, that is evidenced through the outcome our joint working in Blacon, Cheshire and across Merseyside.

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The first project manager for HOT.

Colleagues

Sue Tedford, Project Manager - Part Time

Robin Oldman, Project Manager- Part Time

Clare Hamm, Finance Manager - Part-time

5. Some highlights from 2022 23

In 2022-2023, the financial contribution made by Springboard to HOT along with the membership contributions from our member schools for the financial year has enabled the Hope Opportunity Trust (CIO) to continue:

Supporting Students:

HOT has supported fifty students from Years 12 and 13 / and students moving from Year 13 into university places or gap years. In addition, we support Year 10 / 11 students who are preparing to apply for places, and this is usually about twenty students.

In years 10 and 11, the support covers, one-to-one mentoring, group sessions on pertinent topics, guidance on securing grades, preparation for interviews, liaison with key personnel in boarding schools, accompanying students on visits and exam preparation and revision. Our programme managers have devised and delivered a planned programme in schools to support and build the confidence of our potential bursary students.

In the last year, seventeen students have secured bursary places.

In Years 12/ 13, the support includes mentoring from a student who was previously on the bursary programme. The programme rests on three weekly meetings focused on a carefully crafted personal development plan. The mentors and mentees are trained and receive ongoing help and guidance. They also provide feedback which has informed changes and amendments that we have made to our mentoring programme.

In the last year, sixteen students have been mentored through this programme and eleven students have been trained to begin mentoring next year.

In addition, our programme managers contribute to the work to support students, identified through the STEER process.

Our alumni are also supported. We maintain a directory of our alumni and make direct contact each year to maintain our links and to ensure that the profiles of our students are maintained and accurate. This year, we have linked with seventy alumni and added their progress to our directory.

Supporting parents/ carers and families

We offer a planned programme of support and guidance for our parents/ carers. This year, Sue Tedford has led this, one of our programme managers. Sue has delivered sessions on relevant topics but also has led a parents' What's App group. This has been very actively used and has supported parents/ carers with any questions or issues they have experienced. It has also been a vehicle for celebrating achievements and building resilience and confidence.

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Supporting our schools

This year, Sue Tedford and Robin Oldman continued to strengthen the role of the in-school coordinators of our member schools. They ensure that good practice is shared across our family of schools and from this, they continue to craft a process that will ensure that all schools have a strong and efficient equitable method of identifying and supporting potential bursary students.

Operational restructure

Last year, our funding and internal restructure enabled HOT to extend our staffing to have two programme managers and to secure a leadership structure in the charity that has enabled us to action our future development plan and build greater financial independence. This will ensure that our students, families, and their communities are supported more directly, and this will extend the impact of our work even further.

John

John Denny

CEO and Trustee

6. Audit Certificate

As a CIO HOT has a gross income above £25K but below £500K therefore only requiring an independent examination, the certificate for which is given below.

The reserves policy of HOT is to hold sufficient cash in the bank to ensure that all responsibilities to our students and partners can be fulfilled for two years, should the trustees of HOT find it necessary to cease operations.

Further financial details are available upon request.

Contact:

John Denny CEO at, john.denny2013@gmail.com

PRO FORMA AUDIT CERTIFICATE

Section 1: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PERSON AUDITING THE UNOFFICIAL FUNDS

I have examined the records and supporting documents relating
to the following unofficial funds belonging to HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST

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2			
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I verify that they form an accurate record of the transactions
which have occurred and the balances held

Signed J. Parker

Date 03.10.2023

Please print name in full Jane Parker Bookkeeping Services Ltd

Address 5 Newry Court, Chester
Cheshire, CH22AZ

Telephone Number 07957 858742

Qualification/Experience
to act as Auditor Over 30 years + experience in all aspects
of Accounts and Audit preparation

Fund Auditor's
Comments

HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1164043

Accounts

Hope Opportunity Trust Annual Report and Financial Statement

Charity Number: 1164043

01 05 21 to 30 04 22

Contents

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2. Our values and how we work
3. Impact
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1. Overview

HOT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose mission is to change lives and transform the opportunities available for young people that have extraordinary talent and potential. Our students are young people who have been denied advantage and opportunity but have risen to life's challenges in a unique and inspiring way.

We are offering students fully funded bursary places at some of the finest schools in the UK. These bursaries are funded by the Royal National Springboard Children's Foundation and some direct funding from the receiving/host schools. Since 2013 we have realised over £10M of bursary place investment for over one hundred students with minimal operating costs.

Too many lives are blighted by disadvantage and too much potential squandered through restricted access to opportunity and education. Every thwarted ambition and every unfulfilled talent diminish and impoverish our communities

Our aims are clear and practicable, but their impacts can be incalculable. Our outputs are transformed lives: nurturing young citizens who will not only reach their individual potential, but who are also enthusiastic about giving back to their own communities and wider society

'The most significant impact of the bursary is that it has broadened my viewpoint of my future and of the world. I was able to challenge myself amongst some of the brightest students in the country- something that the competitive part of me loved and continues to build on. My world has extended, and I have built a network of people I would never have met without the bursary. I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity and what it has enabled me to do for my community.' - **A HOT student**

2. Our values and how we work

Collaboration

In meeting our formal objectives, we balance our responsibilities to our students, our school partners, and our communities, by working with state schools in a clearly focused and supportive partnership, helping the whole school and its local community to raise aspirations and achievement.

Creating Opportunity

The student, their family and community are our most important considerations, and we do whatever is in their best interests to nurture talent that might otherwise be lost to society. We are not motivated by politics or ideology, but we were mindful of the history associated with boarding

school education and the perceived culture of privilege. The chance to challenge and change that culture has been fully vindicated by the experiences and achievements of all HOT students. It is the case that both the sending and receiving communities really do benefit from this initiative.

Making a Difference

It is the positive impacts we have witnessed and the personal stories of our students that drive us forward and inspire HOT to continue its mission.

'We, as a family, are extremely happy that Roya has been given such an amazing opportunity. This bursary has shown both Roya and her siblings that hard work does not go to waste, and it is rewarded. Roya's siblings are inspired and they themselves are hoping that in the future they may be able to get similar opportunities. This scheme has also helped Roya to keep up her hard work and her good grades as she sees that it is paying off and that she is getting a rewarding feeling from it.'

A Parent

How we work

HOT works in through close collaborative partnerships with Royal National Springboard Foundation, state schools, boarding schools, students, and their families.

The bursary students are identified in the five HOT Member schools by their teachers and Heads according to strict and consistent criteria of income, challenging family circumstances and the potential benefit to that student of a fully funded boarding experience. More than one hundred students have seized these opportunities.

We were the first charity in the country to work with state schools in this way, and all our partner schools provide testimony to the positive impact of their collaboration with HOT. Due to the impressive resilience of the students and consistent, personalised support from the HOT team only two have withdrawn from a place since 2013. The profile of our students clearly demonstrates our commitment to equality, equity, and access to the bursary programme irrespective of gender and race.

"Holly Lodge have worked with the Hope Opportunity Trust since 2018 and in 2021 we are now putting students 19 to 22 through the process. This is one of a raft of opportunities we use to capture the natural enthusiasm of our students and turn it into aspiration so that our students can reach their potential. As well as the life-changing benefits for the students involved, we have seen the success we have had with the bursary programme galvanise other students in school, and increasingly, students in our feeder primary schools when they meet our bursary students and hear what they have achieved." - **Holly Lodge Head Teacher**

3. Impact

The most powerful testimony on behalf of our work are the stories of our individual students. Their words and achievements, their lived experience can be more eloquent than mission statements or measurable outputs. They validate our fundamental conviction, that by radically changing prospects and opportunities for individuals, we can begin to deliver positive social change in ways we could never have predicted or imagined.

We have many stories to give but here are just two comments taken from much more detailed assessments by the students of their experience to give an indication of the impact.

From Timi's story

"My confidence has increased immeasurably and has taught me that no aspiration is too high, as long as I work hard enough for it"

From Curtis' story

"The most significant lesson that I took from the experience was that there are no aspirations too high for anyone."

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Sue Tedford, Project Manager – Part Time

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In 2021-2022, the financial contribution made by Springboard to HOT along with the membership contributions from our member schools for the financial year has enabled the Hope Opportunity Trust (CIO) to continue:

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In the last year, seventeen students have secured bursary places.

In Year 12/ 13, the support includes mentoring from a student who was previously on the bursary programme. The programme rests on three weekly meetings focused on a carefully crafted personal development plan. The mentors and mentees are trained and receive ongoing help and guidance. They also provide feedback which has informed changes and amendments that we have made to our mentoring programme.

In the last year, fourteen students have been mentored through this programme and fourteen students have been trained to begin mentoring next year. (See reviews of the programme shared with Springboard three times a year)

In addition, our programme managers contribute to the work to support students, identified through the STEER process.

Our alumni are also supported. We maintain a directory of our alumni and make direct contact each year to maintain our links and to ensure that our profiles of our students are maintained and accurate. This year, we have linked with sixty-three alumni and added their progress this year to our directory.

Supporting parents/ carers and families

We offer a planned programme of support and guidance for our parents/ carers. This year, Sue Tedford has led this, one of our programme managers. Sue has delivered sessions on relevant topics but also has led a parents' What's App group. This has been very actively used and has supported parents/ carers with any questions or issues they have experienced. It has also been a vehicle for celebrating achievements and building resilience and confidence.

Our programme managers are the link between students, parents, and boarding schools. They provide uniform and financial information from the boarding schools to parents and with boarding schools arrange travel at exerts and half terms for example, as well as providing support as and when appropriate to students and parents. The impact of this aspect of the programme facilitates the transition of the student from home state school to the boarding environment. It also builds bridges between the student, parent/carers, and the boarding school to improve the likelihood of a more successful bursary for all involved.

Supporting our schools

This year, Sue Tedford has strengthened the role of the school co-ordinators. She has shared good practice across our family of schools and from this she has crafted a process that will ensure that all schools have a strong and efficient process in identifying and supporting potential bursary students.

This year, we have worked directly with five partner state schools.

Operationally restructure

To restructure our internal operational structure to deploy the financial support given as cost effectively as possible increasing the support to students, families, and schools, ensuring that the bursary programme continues to meet its overarching objective to provide astonishing educational opportunities to students in less advantaged situations.

The funding has enabled us to extend our staffing to have two programme managers and to secure a leadership structure in the charity that will enable us to action our future development plan and build greater financial independence. This will ensure that our students, families, and their communities are supported more directly, and this will extend the impact of our work even further.

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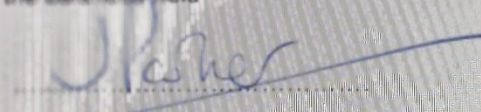
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Date 21.10.22

Please print name in full Jane Parker Bookkeeping Services Ltd

Address 5 Newry Court, Chester
Cheshire, CH22AZ

Telephone Number 07957 858742

Qualification/Experience to act as Auditor Over 30 years + experience in all aspects of Accounts and Audit preparation

Fund Auditor's
Comments

.....
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HOPE OPPORTUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1164043

Accounts

Hope Opportunity Trust Annual Report and Financial Statement Charity Number: 1164043 01 05 19 to 30 04 20

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David Owen- Trustee:

Barrister 1984-2013. Consultant, Trainer, and Independent Investigator since 2011.

Colette Wilkinson- trustee:

The first project manager for HOT.

Colleagues

Deborah Pearson: Project Manager - Full Time

Sue Tedford: Project Manager - Part Time

Clare Hamm: Finance Manager - Part time

Courtney Doyle: Intern and HOT alumni - Part time

5. Some highlights from 2020 21

In so many ways it could not have been a more challenging time as Covid started and impacted so negatively upon on all schools and the opportunities for a

number of students. Both our member schools and the receiving schools had to deal with their own far-reaching issues. Existing students returned home and had to work as best they could in difficult circumstances whilst a small number of students had their places withdrawn. A terribly challenging time for all involved, students, parents and guardians, all schools, and the communities they are part of.

We at Hot are profoundly grateful to RNCSF for releasing funds to directly help those students who had to work at home and their families in ways that exceeded our expectation.

The work of all at HOT was critical at this time, but in particular we acknowledge the support that our Programme Manager Debbie Pearson gave to our students.

As time progressed there were breaks in the pandemic and we took full advantage of that to ensure that the upcoming cohort of students were given the opportunity they all deserved, and with hard work and dedication from all involved that happened as another seventeen students accepted their places. This is never easy, and students differ in how they manage an incredible journey: I will always remain amazed at their resilience; yes, they need support but goodness me do they flourish and enrich the communities from where they came and without doubt the communities they join.

A big part of this ongoing process has been the development and formalisation of a student mentoring programme, developed by Sue Yates, the former Head of Blacon High and supported financially and in many other ways by RNCSF. This initiative has become a positive and supportive element of our offer as existing and former students take part in the initiative.

There were many other highlights in the period, to be taken forward in several key opportunities we are working on to, grow, learn, and enhance our work, not just with bursary students but with all students in our member schools. At the time of drafting this report we are making progress on the following:

- Exploring new routes to create opportunity for our member school students that includes employment and apprenticeships with local, regional and nation organisations
- Developing a 'aspire and engage programme' for our members
- Developing a student and wellbeing coaching and support programme; whole person approach
- Working with and creating a mutual support network for parents and guardians
- Collaborating with new partners and sharing our knowledge
- Developing an impact assessment

And finally, we welcomed three new colleagues, David Owen as a Trustee who immediately volunteered to conduct a review of HOT; and Sue Tedford who is working alongside Debbie whilst developing the Aspire and Engage initiative. Thirdly Clare Hamm who manages our finances just perfectly.

I apologise for the parts I have missed out, but it is a snapshot and that is my excuse.

John

CEO and Trustee

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Further financial details are available upon request.

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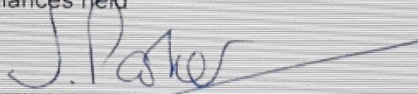
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Date 27.01.2022

Please print name in full Jane Parker Bookkeeping Services Ltd

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Telephone Number 07957 858742

Qualification/Experience
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Fund Auditor's

Comments