



Annual Trustees' Report

Period Ending: 31st December 2023

Future Academy Reference and Administration Information:

Registered Charity Number 1187737

Date of Registration: 04.02.20

Registered Address: Brierley, First Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9EX

Email: contact@future-academy.net

Website: www.future-academy.net

Instagram: @futureacademy.social

Trustees

Christopher Watts (Chair)

Stephen Appleton – resigned 03.02.23

Antonia Elliott – appointed 10.11.23

Alex Fisher

Damien Gabet

Molly Graves – appointed 29.10.23

Max Montgomery

Rob Pilgrim – resigned 26.10.23

James Watts

Jane Watts

Senior Management team

Christopher Watts (Co-Founder; Chair of Trustees; Future English Lead)

Jane Watts (Treasurer; Governance Lead; Education Consultant)

Ahmad Al Jamal (Co-Founder; Operations Lead-Beirut; Future Football Lead)

Mahmoud Al Jamal (Deputy Lead – Beirut; Security Lead)

Consultants

Omar Adi (Partnerships)

Meriem Cheikh (Web design)

Bankers

Cashplus Bank, Cottons Centre, Cottons Lane, London SE1 2QG

Future Academy was registered by The Charity Commission as a CIO in February 2020 (No. 1187737). This is the report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2023.

Aims and Objectives

The Future Academy Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year in January. This report looks at what the charity has achieved; the outcomes of its work in the reporting period and the benefit brought to the young people it supports. The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how the planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The objects of Future Academy are for the public benefit to advance in life and relieve the needs of young people up to the age of 18 living in refugee camps in Beirut by:

- a) Developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;*
- b) Advancing education;*
- c) Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.*

Future Academy was co-founded in 2019 by Christopher Watts, a travel writer and English teacher, and Ahmad Al Jamal, the first Palestinian refugee to play football in the Lebanese premiership. Their friendship is based on a love of football and a passionate belief that education should be freely available and accessible to all children. Future Academy was registered as a UK charity in February 2020 and currently provides educational, sporting and leisure activities for children in two Beirut refugee camps: Burj Barajneh and Shatila.

In 1948-9 the Red Cross established 12 refugee camps in Lebanon for Palestinian refugees. They were meant to provide temporary housing, yet 75 years later thousands of stateless Palestinians still live in the crumbling camps alongside large numbers of Syrian refugees, refugees of other nationalities and some of the poorest Lebanese families. Conditions in the camps are dire, characterised by overcrowding, poor quality housing, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to education, health services and justice.

Future Academy aims to deliver activities that will further its objects. These include football coaching; football tournaments; classes in English language, mathematics, PSHE, art & crafts and vocational skills; leisure activities and sporting/educational field trips in wider Beirut. All activities are risk assessed at the planning stage and again before implementation; they are reviewed afterwards to evaluate their success and impact.

Future Academy's operations are overseen by co-founders Christopher Watts and Ahmad Al Jamal. Ahmad is Operational Lead in Beirut and Head of Future Football; as a refugee who used sport and English to change his future, he is uniquely placed to inspire others and to lead Future Academy in Beirut. Ahmad grew up in Burj Barajneh; his local knowledge and contacts are integral to our acceptance in the camps and ultimately our success. Chris is Chair of Trustees and Head of Future English; he spends 8 months a year in Beirut, as a volunteer. His role is multifaceted: making connections and raising the profile of Future Academy in wider Beirut; monitoring the end use of funds; safeguarding; curriculum development; assessment & progress lead; mentorship of local teachers; and as a volunteer teacher. Apart from Chris, all our team in Beirut are from the local refugee community; our operational team is supported by volunteers in the UK and USA.

Future Academy's aims for 2023 were to:

1) Maintain our current provision in both Burj Barajneh and Shatila Camps

This was achieved in full, with sessions running for 52 weeks of the year. The number of children attending Future Academy activities has risen to 150.

2) Create a second girls' class in Burj Barajneh

Funding received from trustee Alex Fisher and The Jephcott Charitable Trust have enabled us to expand our girls' provision. The two groups run concurrently with students split by age and ability; we now have as many girls as boys attending our school.

3) Establish a youth club for older students

During 2023 we established a table tennis club for our older students. We also show Champions League and International football matches on TV, providing a safe social environment for these students.

Achievements and Performance 2023

Future Academy believes that education should be freely available and accessible to all children. Lebanon has the highest proportion of refugees in the world; education is a human right, yet in Lebanon more than 40% of school-aged refugees are not enrolled in education. For girls the situation is even worse – only 27% of female refugees complete secondary school (UNHCR 2022).

Future Academy's provision is needs-based; during 2023 we have provided educational, sporting and leisure activities to at least 150 refugee children in Burj Barajneh and Shatila camps, Beirut.

Future Football

Future Football sessions are led by a qualified local coach (Asian Football Federation Accreditation), supported by at least one assistant coach. Sessions focus on the acquisition of football skills, tactics, fair play and fun; groups are split according to age and ability. Gifted players have access to professional trials, apprenticeships and coaching badges. Ex-professional footballers provide mentorship to students. Monthly awards are given for attendance, improvement, fair play and leadership.

More than 120 children have attended football sessions this year, including our first dedicated girls' group. We are grateful to KitAid, Watford FC, Aston Villa and FC Clacton for providing kit for our teams and coaches.

Many thanks to coaches Salah (Burj Barajneh) and Mahmoud (Shatila) and their teams of dedicated assistant coaches for delivering such high-quality coaching.



Football Tournaments

Football tournaments allow students to test themselves competitively against their peers; they also provide a rare opportunity for Palestinian and Syrian families to socialise together, helping to promote community cohesion. In 2023, Future Academy held 2 large tournaments for players from both Burj Barajneh and Shatila camps: The Future Cup and the inaugural ESR Tournament (Every Single Refugee). We are very grateful to Les Rowe and Emile Smith-Rowe (Arsenal & England) for the support they have given us this year: football kit, boots, trainers, backpacks and some of Emile's priceless England and Arsenal memorabilia.



Future English

Our school is located in Burj Barajneh Camp; co-founder and Chair of trustees, Chris Watts, leads a dedicated team comprising TEFL-qualified, native English speaking volunteer teachers and local, bilingual teachers. Roughly 50% of our students attend the UNWRA school part time, the remainder had never been to school before.

Our students' life experiences are very different from their non-refugee peers, so they need a curriculum that is relevant to the specific challenges they face. Classes are small; we use games as a tool to improve academic performance and to build resilience - making learning active and fun. Our flexible, non-formal education programme aims to protect, educate and empower; it is centred on the 4 purposes of learning:



Voice: to be able to express ideas and opinions, with the confidence that they will be heard and understood.

Access: to be able to access information so that they can orient themselves in the world.

Independence: to be able to solve problems and make decisions independently, without having to rely upon others.

Bridge to the future: to acquire the skills they need to be active participants in a changing world.

We provide children with a minimum of 5 sessions per week, 52 weeks of the year. These include English, mathematics, PSHE, art & crafts, age-appropriate vocational skills, sport and an enrichment programme of extra-curricular activities. Children also have access to the school library and afterschool club.

Gender equality in the Classroom

By the end of 2023 we achieved our aim of having as many girls attending our school as boys.

Enrichment Programme



In 2023 we created an enrichment programme to give students opportunities for extracurricular activities. This was a great success and provided students with days out, sports competitions, creative workshops and challenges. We are very grateful to our specialist volunteers: hairdresser Claire Lee and musician Kevin Safadi for their inspiring contributions.



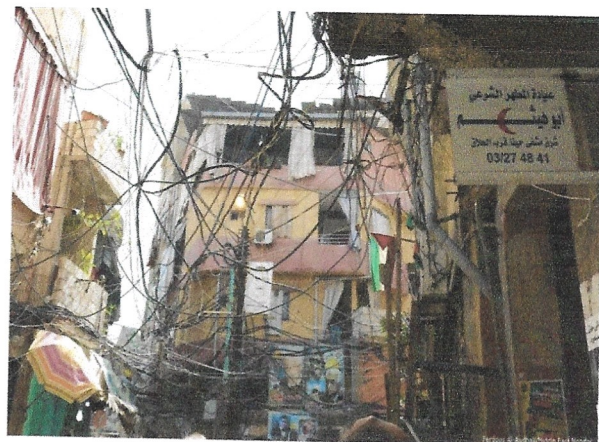
Impact

Our provision is needs-based and constantly evolving to enable us to best support our students. In line with UN Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" and "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", we pledge that every student that enters our school will leave with a better understanding of the world and how to access it.

The impact of our provision is an improvement in literacy skills, numeracy and general knowledge; enhanced communication and social skills; improved self-esteem, self-reliance and the capacity to self-advocate; increased confidence, emotional well-being and resilience. Recreational and leisure activities provide a welcome respite from the harsh reality of daily life. The longer-term impact will be increased employment opportunities enabling students to participate fully in society.

Community Relationships

Future Academy's commitment to the children of Burj Barajneh and Shatila is long term: Ahmad, FA's co-founder and Future Football Director, was a child refugee who spent part of his childhood in both camps, becoming a professional footballer; he is well known and respected. Our football coaches, teachers and security staff are all from the local refugee community; their input helps refine and expand our provision. The communities are now familiar with our programme of activities and children are keen to participate.



The ongoing economic and political crisis in Lebanon has made life even more challenging for the refugee community.

Rival armed, political factions jostle for supremacy and control; the fallout impacts the community, our students and sometimes our activities. The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas is causing anxiety and sadness as many of the community have relatives in Gaza and the West Bank. There are daily skirmishes on the southern Lebanese border and there is fear that hostilities will spread to Beirut. However, Lebanon is currently described as stable and our charitable activities continue as normal; this fragile stability could change without warning so, for now, we have decided not to allow visitors in to camp.

Volunteer Contribution

Without the significant contribution of volunteers, Future Academy would be unable to deliver its activities to so many children. In addition to the time donated by Trustees and occasional volunteers, the contributions provided by our key management personnel, consultants and volunteer teachers equate to more than 48 hours per week.

Future Plans

Our aims for 2024 are to:

- 1) **Maintain our current provision in both Burj Barajneh and Shatila Camps** – 150 children
- 2) **Open a second school in Shatila Camp** – in the first phase, all students attending football coaching in Shatila will be offered places; the second phase will work towards our aim of gender equality in the classroom.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. The public benefit of the Charity's activities is to advance in life and relieve the needs of young people living in refugee camps in Beirut; this is achieved principally by providing the children with regular educational and sporting activities.

Structure, Governance and Management

Future Academy was registered as a CIO with the Charities Commission in February 2020. The governing document is the Charity Commission's Foundation Model Constitution. Future Academy has a board of eight Trustees, who have a varied skillset. In 2023, two trustees made self-funded trips to Beirut to meet the team, verify the end use of funds and to see the impact of our work.

The senior management team (SMT) has day-to-day responsibility for the running of Future Academy. This comprises co-founders Chris Watts (Chair of Trustees) and Ahmad Al Jamal (Operational Lead) along with Mahmoud Al Jamal (Security Lead) and Jane Watts (Finance/Governance). SMT report to the board of trustees every three months. The Trustees will consider recruitment of new Trustees as the need arises. Applications from suitable candidates would be sought by identifying specific gaps in professional skills and seeking recommendations of professionally qualified candidates, if necessary, placing advertisements in suitable publications. Applicants would be provided with an information pack outlining the history of the organisation, its structure, activities and objectives, roles and expectations of Trustees plus other relevant supporting information.

The board holds an AGM where the budget and aims for the following year are agreed. Policies are reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis along with the risk register. The board are committed to developing a training budget so that Future Academy Trustees and the wider team are appropriately trained for their roles.

2022 Training (Delivered by International Charities Engagement Team unless stated otherwise)	2023 Training
Safeguarding in an international context	Responding to crises overseas
Working internationally – an introduction to security and risk management for charities	Working overseas: risks, responsibilities and legal duties
Child Protection: Children's Rights in Theory and Practice (Harvard University)	Local staff training (Beirut): safeguarding, first aid & security Delivered by Future Academy/Red Cross/UNRWA representatives
Risks and requirements when operating in cash internationally	
Local staff training (Beirut): safeguarding, first aid & security Delivered by Future Academy/Red Cross/UNRWA representatives	

Financial Review

Future Academy raises funds from the public, individual donors, fundraising events, charitable trusts and corporate sponsors; we do not use professional fundraisers. We claim Gift Aid on all qualifying donations.

In 2023 total receipts of funds were £43,079: £24,285 were funds restricted to specific projects e.g. girls' education and £18,794 were unrestricted funds.

Expenditure totalled £41,144 leaving a net balance on 31 December 2023 of £20,816. Future Academy's main expenses are staffing and rent/utilities in Beirut.

We estimate that the cost of activities planned for 2023 to be £53,000 and we expect to have income of £57,000.

Loan repayments of £1,750 were made to the Chair of Trustees.

[In June 2019, the Chair of Trustees made a 5-year, interest-free loan of £5000 to Future Academy. This is the second repayment; the remaining £1,750 is due by 31 May 2024].

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Future Academy does not pay any UK-based Key Management Personnel.

Remuneration of Local (Beirut) Personnel

Our policy is, wherever possible, to employ staff from the refugee community. Local football coaches and assistant teachers are paid by the session, in USD. In 2023 we had 12 local staff on our team – 9 male and 3 female, all from the refugee community. Staff costs for delivering charitable activities in Beirut was £18,889.

Trustee Expenses

Future Academy does not pay expenses to trustees for carrying out their trustee duties.

Volunteer Expenses

UK-based volunteer teachers, who commit to spending at least one month in Beirut, have accommodation, electricity and travel costs met; trustees may also be volunteer teachers. In 2023, one teacher (co-founder and Chair of Trustees) spent 254 days volunteering in Beirut; volunteer costs amounted to £8801.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves allowing Future Academy activities to run for 3-6 months. This provides stability and enables us to honour our commitment to the children of Burj Barajneh and Shatila, whilst ensuring that excessive funds are not accumulated. The adequacy of this policy is reviewed annually.

Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

The Trustees declare that the charity had no funds which were materially in deficit at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Guarantee Given by the Charity

The Trustees declare that the charity has given no guarantee where potential liability is outstanding at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Particulars of Any Outstanding Debt

The Trustees declare that the charity has no outstanding debts which are secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the charity at the date of the statement of assets & liabilities.

Risk

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed have been identified by the Trustees; procedures established to mitigate these risks are monitored and reviewed regularly and have been recorded in the risk register. Three major risks have been identified and arrangements have been put in place to mitigate these risks.

Camp Security Issues: This could include clashes between camp residents and the surrounding Lebanese areas over resources such as fuel, or over personal disputes; clashes inside camp between different armed factions or refugees. Mitigations include:

- Direct access to the latest security briefings from UNRWA and Red Cross (Beirut).
- Established communication chain between security lead, head of operations and staff leading activities to ensure all staff and students are informed. Activities will be postponed when safety is compromised.
- Volunteer/staff safeguarding guide outlines procedures for such incidents.
- Ensure valuable items (IT equipment) are kept securely – either offsite or in a locked cupboard.

Armed Political Factions within Camp: Rival armed, political factions jostle for supremacy and control; the fallout impacts the community, our students and sometimes our activities.

Our charter is very clear:

We are apolitical. Our children are victims of history; we don't take sides in the fight for their future. We do not turn away anyone who wants to learn. We do not accept funding from political organisations or their affiliates.

Mitigations include:

- Maintain a neutral, non-confrontational position.
- Deliver some activities off-site e.g. football training.
- Restrict the number of visitors to camp to those that are essential for the delivery of charitable activities and governance.

Financial Issues:

Financial risk relates mainly to establishing stable revenue streams and overseas currency fluctuations - our revenue is in £ sterling but most payments made in Beirut are in Lebanese lira (converted from US dollars).

Since the start of the financial crisis in 2019, the national currency of Lebanon has lost more than 90% of its value. On 1st February 2023 the Central Bank reset the currency peg at LL 15,000 per US dollar. By mid-March 2023, the "parallel market" rate had fallen to LL 100,000. Inflation is high (Dec 2023: 211.9%) and prices have risen dramatically. Poverty is now widespread, and this is especially true within the refugee camps.

During 2024, we expect the cost-of-living crisis in the UK and the GBP:USD exchange rate to continue to have an impact on our income and expenditure in Beirut.

Mitigations include:

- Maintain and develop relationships with existing funders; provide quarterly newsletters and personalised feedback to demonstrate the impact of their funds.
- Follow the Charity Commission Toolkit guidance relating to "Moving, handling and receiving funds safely when working in the UK and internationally". [Chapter 4]
- FA internal financial controls policy is reviewed annually to ensure it is robust; full and proper written records are kept; all transactions are monitored.
- The formal banking system is used whenever possible and appropriate.
- Risk assessment undertaken before using alternative methods for transferring funds
- Local staff (Beirut) are paid in USD

Signed on behalf of Future Academy Trustees:



29th January 2024

C. WATTS



29.1.24

J. WATTS

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Future Academy**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Future Academy

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Future Academy for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mark Thompson FCCA
PG Lemon LLP
Chartered Certified Accountants
Unicorn House
221/222 Shoreditch High Street
London
E1 6PJ

Date: 14 May 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
FUTURE ACADEMY

No (if any)
1187737

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01-Jan-23	To	Period end date 31-Dec-23
------------------------	--------------------------------	----	------------------------------

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts	14,287	-	-	14,287	27,941
Grants	-	24,285	-	24,285	6,500
Gift Aid	4,507	-	-	4,507	6,769
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	18,794	24,285	-	43,079	41,210
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	18,794	24,285	-	43,079	41,210
A3 Payments					
Charitable Activities	16,104	22,405	-	38,509	26,333
Governance	236	326	-	562	368
Generating Funds	136	188	-	324	761
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	16,476	22,918	-	39,394	27,462
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Loan Repayment	1,750	-	-	1,750	1,500
Classroom equipment	-	-	-	-	4,059
Sub total	1,750	-	-	1,750	5,559
Total payments	18,226	22,918	-	41,144	33,021
Net of receipts/(payments)	568	1,367	-	1,934	8,189
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,986	10,896	-	18,882	10,693
Cash funds this year end	8,554	12,263	-	20,816	18,882

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	UK	3,992	10,103	-
	Lebanon	4,562	2,160	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	8,554	12,263	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Trustee Loan	unrestricted	1,750	31.05.24
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Joe Webb	JANE WATTS	13.3.24

A3. Payments

Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Wages	9970	8919	18889
Pitch Hire	2540	654	3193
School Rent + Utilities	1114	2227	3341
Transport	1059	529	1588
Staff Training	52	104	156
Volunteer Expenses	480	8320	8801
Resources	889	1651	2540
Total	16104	22405	38509

Governance

Accountancy Fees	176	244	420
Bank Charges	1	1	1
Monitoring End Use of Funds	59	82	141
Total	236	326	562

Generating Funds

Fundraising equipment	12	16	28
Website	124	172	296
Total	136	188	324

A4. Asset & Investment purchases

Loan Repayment	1750	0	1750
-----------------------	------	---	------

Total Payments 2023	18226	22918	41144
----------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------