

THE FRIENDS OF CENTRE STAGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1201041

Details

Other names	FRIENDS OF CENTRE STAGE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2022-11-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	98 Gates Green Road West Wickham Kent BR4 9DG
Phone	08000582521
Email	friends@centrestagetheatreacademy.com

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE STUDENTS OF CENTRE STAGE THEATRE ACADEMY, AND THOSE IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS THE ACADEMY WORKS WITHIN, BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR THE ACADEMY AND THE SUPPLY OF GRANTS TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS UP TO THE AGE OF 21 (25 IF WITH A DIAGNOSED DISABILITY), TO ACCESS TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN MUSICAL THEATRE, DRAMA AND THE ARTS AT, AND THROUGH, THE ACADEMY.

Activities: The Friends of Centre Stage exists to ensure all children and young adults can access the wonderful world of musical theatre at, or through, Centre Stage Theatre Academy (CSTA). We provide equipment and funding to CSTA to enhance their offering to all students as well as grant funding for those who would otherwise be unable to afford to attend.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Other Finance
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-01	£14,675	£17,144	-	-
2024-04-01	£21,531	£10,963	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Melanie Kate Johnson	Chair	2026-05-07
Daniel Joseph Johnson		2022-11-16
Frankie Patrick Fitzgerald		2022-11-16
Lydia Jane Anderson Fitzgerald		2022-11-16
Marvin Mark James Smith		2023-12-06
Natalie Louise Simmons		2026-05-11

THE FRIENDS OF CENTRE STAGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1201041

Accounts

Trustee's Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2024 To 31 March 2025

Charity name: The Friends of Centre Stage (FoCS)

Charity registration number: 1201041

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Charitable purpose: To advance the education of the students of centre stage theatre academy, and those in the geographical areas the academy works within, by the provision of facilities for the academy and the supply of grants to children and young adults up to the age of 21 (25 if with a diagnosed disability), to access training and education in musical theatre, drama and the arts at, and through, the academy.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	As the charity, now in its second full year, continued to grow, The Friends of Centre Stage (FoCS) used the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 to build our funds and look into new and exciting ways to support our work. As such, we were able to expand the number of grants available enabling more students to attend after school clubs, holiday workshops, the CSTA Summer youth Project and main CSTA academies. In total between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 we are proud that we provided grants that supported over 100 students.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	This statement confirms that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Over 100 children took part in CSTA projects this year thanks to FoCS support — a record for the charity. During 2024/25, FoCS continued to make a real difference in the lives of children and young adults by supporting access to the world of musical theatre, drama, and the arts at CSTA. Many of these children would not have been able to participate without the charity's support. Trustees are extremely proud of this growth and the tangible impact it has had on CSTA students' confidence, creativity, and teamwork skills. Significant effort went into applying for grant funding during 2024/25. Although no grants were secured this year, the detailed feedback received will help strengthen future applications and guide the charity's strategy going forward. Income from continued fundraising activities — including bucket collections, fundraising sales at academies, and one-off donations — alongside the charity's first Gift Aid repayment, enabled FoCS to maintain vital support for students. These funds ensure that every child can participate in a nurturing environment where they gain singing, drama, and dance skills that will stay with them for life. By providing fair and inclusive access to performing arts training, FoCS contributes not only to the development of individual children but also to broader community benefits. CSTA students leave with increased confidence, teamwork, and creativity, helping to foster a more inclusive, resilient, and well-rounded generation.
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Cash book accounts 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025: <table border="1" data-bbox="604 398 1402 1048"> <tr> <td>Opening Balance</td><td>£ 19,765.55</td></tr> <tr> <td>Income</td><td>£ 14,675.38</td></tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td><td>£ 17,143.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Cash at bank and in hand</td><td>£ 17,297.43</td></tr> <tr> <td>Creditors</td><td>£ 0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Net assets</td><td>£ 17,297.43</td></tr> </table>	Opening Balance	£ 19,765.55	Income	£ 14,675.38	Expenditure	£ 17,143.50	Total Cash at bank and in hand	£ 17,297.43	Creditors	£ 0	Net assets	£ 17,297.43
Opening Balance	£ 19,765.55												
Income	£ 14,675.38												
Expenditure	£ 17,143.50												
Total Cash at bank and in hand	£ 17,297.43												
Creditors	£ 0												
Net assets	£ 17,297.43												
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	The charity currently has no requirement to hold reserves and therefore no requirement for a reserves policy.												
Amount of reserves held	£0												
Reasons for holding zero reserves	As a charity currently fully run and managed by its board of trustees with no ongoing financial commitments, The Friends of Centre Stage do not need to hold reserves. This policy will be reviewed annually.												

Details of fund materially in deficit	There are no funds in material deficit
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	There are no concerns about the future ability of the charity to remain an ongoing concern.

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	The charity's principal sources of income during the year continued to come from its fundraising activities. These activities primarily fell into the following areas: • Bucket collections at Centre Stage Theatre Academy shows • Fundraising sales at academies • Single, one-off donations During the financial year, despite significant efforts, the charity was unfortunate not to secure any grant funding. However, as a registered charity, FoCS was able to access a number of one-off donations that would not have been available prior to registration. These included donations received via JustGiving, a £1,500 donation from John Lewis & Partners, a £500 donation from a local Masonic Lodge, and a donation received through Benevity, a corporate giving platform through which the charity was nominated by the parent of a CSTA student. The charity also received its first ever Gift Aid repayment during the year. While no sponsored events were held during the financial year, and therefore no income was generated through this method, income from all charitable activities for the year totalled £14,675.38, as shown in the cash book accounts. This level of income is broadly in line with the previous financial year when grant funding is excluded and is therefore considered by the trustees to represent a successful year of fundraising activity.
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	Constitution whose only voting members are its charity trustees
How is the charity constituted?	CIO

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Friends of Centre Stage
Other name the charity uses	FoCS
Registered charity number	1201041
Charity's principal address	98 Gates Green Road West Wickham Kent BR4 9DG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Daniel Joseph Johnson	Chair	N/A	N/A
2	Alison Maria Dawkins	Treasurer	N/A	N/A
3	Melanie Johnson	Trustee	N/A	N/A
4	Frankie Patrick Fitzgerald	Trustee	N/A	N/A
5	Lydia Jane Anderson Fitzgerald	Trustee	N/A	N/A
6	Jane Louise Ramsey	Trustee	N/A	N/A
7	Marvin Mark James Smith	Trustee	N/A	N/A
8	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A
9	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A
10	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A
11	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A
12	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Daniel Joseph Johnson	Frankie Patrick Fitzgerald
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Trustee
Date	12 January 2026	12 January 2026

THE FRIENDS OF CENTRE STAGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1201041

Accounts

Trustee's Annual Report for the period

From 16 November 2022 To 31 March 2023

And

From 1 April 2023 To 31 March 2024

Charity name: The Friends of Centre Stage (FoCS)

Charity registration number: 1201041

Objectives and Activities:

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Charitable purpose: To advance the education of the students of centre stage theatre academy, and those in the geographical areas the academy works within, by the provision of facilities for the academy and the supply of grants to children and young adults up to the age of 21 (25 if with a diagnosed disability), to access training and education in musical theatre, drama and the arts at, and through, the academy.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	As a newly established organisation with charitable status, The Friends of Centre Stage (FoCS) used the period from 16 November 2022 to 31 March 2023 to focus on how we would build our funds and planning future expenditure to ensure we maximised our impact as we moved into this new phase of our existence. Prior to this period FoCS committed £4,000 worth of grants allowing 20 children from low-income families to take part in Centre Stage Theatre Academies (CSTA) Summer Youth Project 2022 which were debited in March '23. As the charity moved into its first full financial reporting period, our ability to raise funds, and therefore support a greater number of students, increased. We were also able to provide grants enabling students to attend after school clubs, holiday workshops and main CSTA academies. In total from 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 we provided grants that supported 41 students.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	This statement confirms that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.
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Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Our biggest, and proudest, achievement of the period up to 16 November 2022 was gaining registration with The Charity Commission, taking The Friends of Centre Stage from an organisation with no legal status to an independent organisation with charitable status. Through the hard work and dedication of the newly appointed board of trustees, this piece of work was achieved in a much shorter timescale than expected. This meant we could focus on setting our future goals for both fundraising and supporting the work of CSTA through funding placements for children and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds and providing resources to help enhance the education for all students. The work undertaken in 2022/23 put the charity on a strong path to continuing to support children and young adults to experience the wonderful world of musical theatre, drama and the arts at CSTA long into the future. Throughout the 2023/2024 period, we put plans in place for additional fundraising activities. We ran our first ever sponsored event, an extremely successful Dance-a-thon. This event saw students from all academies come together at The Woodville Theatre and dance nonstop for 24 hours. We also received our first successful grant applications from The Albury Foundation and The Backstage Trust. With the continued income from our other fundraising activities, this gave us the ability to support the 41 students through our grant funding. Children and young adults that participate in training at CSTA are supported in a nurturing environment to gain knowledge and skills in singing, drama and dance. These skills help build confidence, focus and teamwork that will live with them forever. By continuing our work through our fundraising and grant funding programmes, we believe we are providing a valuable resource to the communities we work within. Students who would otherwise be unable to attend benefit from the same training and opportunities as others giving fairer access and helping support a more confident and rounded group as they move into adulthood.
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Cash book accounts	
	16 November 2022 to 31 March 2023:	
	Opening Balance	£9,197.83
	Income	£320.70
	Expenditure	£4,000
	Total Cash at bank and in hand	£5,518.53
	1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024	
	Opening Balance	£5,518.53
	Income	£21,209.88
	Expenditure	£6,962.86
	Total Cash at bank and in hand	£19,765.55
	Creditors (CSTA funding for Jan – April 2024 placements to be paid in May 2024)	£5,240
	Net assets	£ 14,525.55
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	The charity currently has no requirement to hold reserves and therefore no requirement for a reserves policy.	
Amount of reserves held	£0	
Reasons for holding zero reserves	As a charity currently fully run and managed by its board of trustees with no ongoing financial commitments, The Friends of Centre Stage do not need to hold reserves. This policy will be reviewed annually.	

Details of fund materially in deficit	There are no funds in material deficit
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	There are no concerns about the future ability of the charity to remain an ongoing concern.
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	The charities principal source of income, prior to becoming registered came from our fundraising activities. These activities primarily break down into 3 areas as follows: • Bucket collections at Centre Stage Theatre Academy shows • Fundraising sales at academies • Single, one-off donations In the financial year from 1 April 2022 to 15 November 2022 before achieving registered status, FoCS raised £5,798.45 through these methods. Since achieving registered status in from 16 November 2022 to 31 March 2023 our fundraising was limited to fundraising sales at academies which totalled the £320.70 shown in the cash book accounts. In our first full financial year, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, we expanded our fundraising activities to make full use of our registered status. In addition to our tried and tested methods of fundraising we added two further fundraising activities: • Grant funding • Sponsored events With the addition of these activities, income from all charitable activities in this period was £21,209.88, as shown in the cashbook accounts. Of this income, £7,800 were restricted donations from The Backstage Trust and The Albury Foundation for specific projects and £13,409.88 was unrestricted income.

Structure, Governance and Management

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Daniel Joseph Johnson	Chair	Acting since 16 November 2022	N/A
2	Alison Maria Dawkins	Treasurer	Acting since 16 November 2022	N/A
3	Melanie Johnson	Trustee	Acting since 16 November 2022	N/A
4	Frankie Patrick Fitzgerald	Trustee	Acting since 16 November 2022	N/A
5	Lydia Jane Anderson Fitzgerald	Trustee	Acting since 16 November 2022	N/A
6	Jane Louise Ramsey	Trustee	Acting since 16 December 2022	N/A
7	Marvin Mark James Smith	Trustee	Acting since 6 December 2023	N/A
8	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A
9	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A
10	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A
11	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A
12	Vacant	Trustee	N/A	N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Daniel Joseph Johnson	Frankie Patrick Fitzgerald
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Trustee
Date	13 January 2025	13.01.2025