



# Biennial Report & Case Study August 2021 - 2023



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**Our Motto:** 

A Passion for leveraging education to transform all students' lives through social

mobility.





#### Introduction:

Originally established in 2008 within Islington's community centers, we are a Community Interest Company, dedicated to serving parents, caregivers, and families. Our services encompass a wide range of free and subsidised education and well-being support, with a particular focus on empowering neurodiversity learners on their educational journey. Now situated in South London, our online reach extends far beyond our local London boroughs.

Central to our efforts is our commitment to social justice programs. Now based in Croydon on Sydenham Road, we run various initiatives, including a 'home-schooling' hub for deregistered school-aged children and NEETs (not engaged in education, employment, or training), most of whom have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability). Excitingly, in October 2023, we will launch Croydon's First After-School Club For Neurodiverse Students, further enriching our inclusive approach to education and community support.

#### What We Do:

Our vision and mission statement below, will help you to understand our purpose and the impact we aim to make on our communities.

**Our Vision**: To nurture the next generation of leaders. In an inclusive range of SEND settings, we will provide outstanding well-being and education/training services to families – both parents and children.

**Our Mission**: In a safe, kind, and nurturing environment, we provide high quality, affordable and free education and well-being services, to children and their parents/carers. Through partnerships with parents and other support services, we will secure the best outcomes for families with the greatest needs in our communities (social, economic and health -including neurodiversity). We aim to:

1) remove the barriers to learning and progress

2) lead young people (and carers) to realise their full potential by helping them to discover their gifts and talents

3) instilling high levels of resilience and improving social skills, so our stakeholders can thrive in school and at work.



#### **Community Projects & Services:**

#### **Our Homeschooling Hub:**

Our Homeschooling Hub has been running for a year with successful outcomes for our students. Our focus is on supporting neurodiverse young students (mainly BAME males aged 9-13). These students had difficulty in traditional schooling, particularly in the transition from Primary to Secondary school.

Students were able to benefit from smaller classes and inclusive, SEND-trained teachers. Our homeschooling hub provides a supportive and empowering environment that nurtures and guides vulnerable BAME boys, helping them steer away from the path of county lines gang culture, and instead, encouraging them to embrace education, personal growth, and positive community engagement.

All of the parents involved gave us positive feedback, with common improvements being made in the student's confidence, self-esteem and ability to enjoy learning.

Every child benefited from three days of learning a week, plus cultural trips aimed at enriching their minds.





Here are some of the cultural activities experienced by our students. These trips helped to raise our student's self-esteem and secure their identity as BAME students in Britain.

and more

Our educational trips were varied and included: *The Horniman Museum, Croydon Museum* (tour given by Croydon's poet ), *Talawa Theatre performance* at Fairfield Halls, *Black Cultural Archives* (BCA) workshop on famous Black, British Victorians, *Croydon walking tour* to the composer, *Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's home, The Royal Society – Summer Science Festival, Brighton beach* daytrip.

As Croydon is the UK's City of Culture for 2023, we wanted our students to feel pride for living in Croydon.



#### **Sports and Holiday Clubs:**

We encourage you to take a closer look at our newsletter piece highlighting the transformative experiences and accomplishments of our 2021 Summer School.



#### Summer School 2021

Our 2021 Summer School Programme has started!

We are delighted to offer children the chance to learn more about science, a subject that is often so challenging, in a fun and immersive way in the beautiful Sunnydown school. We are also offering - incredible sports coaches from cre8football, talented drama and dance sessions delivered by Fabienne from B.A.E.T and our creative arts and crafts. It has been great to see the children learning and growing in our Summer Science/Sports and Fun Club! A huge thank you to our partners: Croydon Council and Kiwanis Club of Croydon.



Huge success funded by Croydon Council and supported by Nationwide

We invite you to read our newsletter piece on the 2022 Easter School, where we were delighted to offer free spots to those on free school meals, showcasing the positive impact of our inclusive educational initiatives.

Maths for children from Year 1 to Year 9.

### Easter Holiday club for (FSM) children &



Thanks to funding from Croydon Council, we were able to offer lots of free places on our first Easter Club from Monday 4th March through to Thursday 7th March, Children on Free CROYDON School Meals (FSM) were provided with a day of fun and lots of healthy food and tasty snacks. All the children enjoyed learning about science through fun-food and nutrition activities, alongside taking part in sports, drama, dance and board games. We also ran catch up classes in English and



www.croydon.gov.uk

A big thank you to Morrisons who gifted food and water towards our Easter Club break time provision. The children thoroughly enjoyed tucking into all the healthy food provided.





A Grateful Parent – Mrs Thompson

"My son truly enjoyed the Bright Futures Easter school, and I have told anyone who would listen about the improvement I have seen in his math's and reading. He did not have a natural passion for learning and was only ever interested in attending football camps during the holidays. Within 3 days of attendance at Bright Futures, his reading begun to flow better and his grammar has improved. His confidence in learning has grown and on the last day of camp he got into the car and said, "Mum, finally I've found a new way of doing maths that I can understand". A huge and grateful thank you to Mrs Bryson and her team, for bringing out a passion I thought I would never see . We can't wait for Summer School!







Take a moment to explore our newsletter piece, delving into the memorable experiences and remarkable achievements of our 2022 Summer School.

#### **Our 2022 Summer School Programme**

Once again we were delighted to offer children the chance to learn more about science and improve their Maths and English in the familiar grounds of Cornerstone House. We offered talented drama and dance sessions delivered by Fabienne from B.A.E.T and our creative arts and crafts. It has been great to see the children learning and growing. A huge thank you to our partners: Morrisons and Kiwanis Club of Croydon.



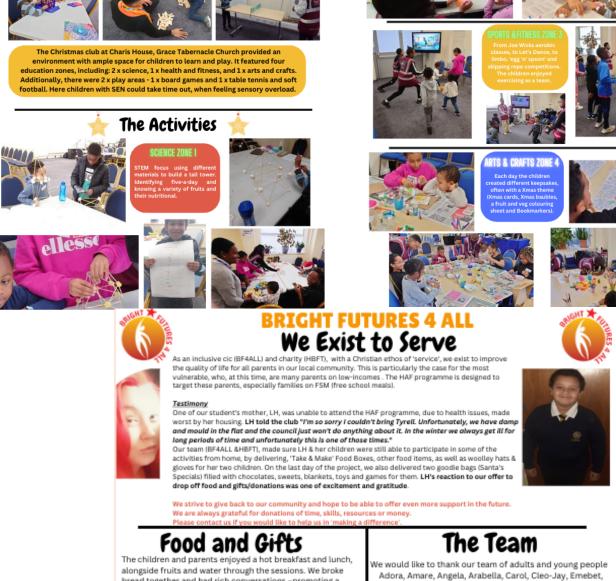




Take a glimpse into the enriching moments of our 2022 Christmas School through our informative newsletter piece, where we share the meaningful impact of our seasonal educational programs.

**BRIGHT FUTURES 4 ALL Croydon HAF Christmas Club 2022** Our end of year holiday Programme, focused on boosting the scientific knowledge and skills of children from reception to secondary school age. Using a largely kinasethetic hands on approach, we provided excellent nutritional and sporting enrichment activities for all. We had a special focus on providing fun, rich and diverse learning for Croydon families with neuro-diverse children, as well as without any special needs. This included: physics-themed, food based science experiments, food tasting, a range of sports and arts based activities. This allowed the children to immerse thamsalues in ble of desting. allowed the children to immerse themselves in lots of engaging sensory activities. We also had parents talks and workshops to support families on a budget and provided information on how to create amazing nutritional meals





David, Faithful, Gillian, Rathiga, Theresa, Aaliyah and Judith P for all their help in running the Christmas club.



We would also like to express our gratitude to the children and their parents for participating in the club.





**BRIGHT FUTURES 4 ALL** 



bread together and had rich conversations -promoting a 'family-atmosphere'. We also had lots of freebies including gloves, hats, sweets, and science-themed goodie bags from Imperial College for both children and parents









### **Easter Club Success!**



The feedback from our Easter Club has been overwhelmingly positive and we cannot wait to invite you back in the Summer! Have a look at what we got up to below:





The **children enjoyed hot food** for breakfast, lunch and tasty, healthy snacks. They were able to explore our **fun, science-themed, learning-based activities**, such as: STEM tables, Arts and Crafts table, and our fitness zone! Click on what you want to be involved in below:

Delve into our newsletter piece on the 2023 Easter School to discover the captivating world of science-based learning, as we share how our innovative approach enriched the educational journey of our students.

We were pioneers in developing a **fully integrated holiday club**, bringing together children with **SEND** alongside their peers, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone could learn, grow, and play harmoniously.

## Summer Fun: Celebrating the Success of Our Vibrant Summer Club

Don't miss out on our newsletter piece, where we shine a spotlight on the dynamic and science-based learning experiences during the 2023 Summer School, showcasing the inspiring growth and achievements of our students.

We are thrilled to celebrate the tremendous success of our 8-day Summer Programme that took place in July. Students engaged in activities, including Art, English, Maths, and Science (including building a vegetable garden -see picture), igniting their curiosity and fostering a love for knowledge.

FOLLOW US FOR MORE PHOTOS!

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Each day commenced

outdoor exercise and

English consolidation

expert guidance of Mrs

Karen Bryson and our team of dedicated

tutors, the *students* 

the opportunity to

thrived and embraced

expand their horizons.

activities. Under the

with invigorating

short kinesthetic

based maths and





#### Trauma – Informed Stay 'n' Play project – (under 8s):

We created a safe, relaxing, friendly environment for parents, carers and their children, who as a result of significant trauma were out of school. Children explored learning and creativity in a trauma-informed provision led by Stephanie Brown, Theresa Louison and Salma Mirza. The project was in Croydon's Broad Green area one of the highest areas of deprivation in the UK. We aim to meet the needs of all children in our community, where 65% of Croydon's under 25 population are BAME.

We supported both LAC (Looked-After

Children) and non-LAC, who needed play-based therapy, within a secure, educational setting throughout the day and weekends. Our 2-adults to 1 child service, based on the Early Learning Goals, was set-up for KS1/lower KS2 aged children (under 8 years-old), who had experienced significant trauma and had 'high needs'.



#### **Raising the Next Generation – project:**

One of our proudest achievements is nurturing the next generation of leaders through peer support. We have been

able to achieve this through collaborating with the sixth form of a leading West London school - King Solomon Academy. 6th form students from West London have successfully given social, emotional, and academic support to South London primary and GCSE students.

Joy (Mentee); "I really enjoy participating in this programme. Having Julia to talk about my worries and insecurities has been a lifeline at a very difficult time. She has boosted my confidence and encouraged me to believe in myself. "

Julia (Mentor); "I decided to take part in the programme because I felt helpless during the Covid-19 pandemic and wanted to engage with a community and support it as best as I could. Participating in these tutorials did not only teach me organization and teaching skills, but also allowed me to get to know wonderful children who are hardworking and incredibly resilient despite the many challenges they face. "







#### Cre8football – Grass2Grades:

Cre8 Football is a not-for-profit football organisation based in Croydon and Lambeth. Offering children, the opportunity to take part in positive physical activity by creating an environment where children can learn, develop, and enjoy.

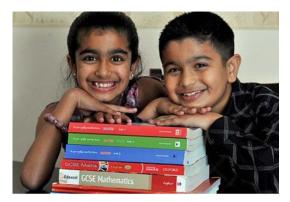
The pilot project Grass2Grades aims to increase the confidence, enjoyment & academic achievement of the participants. In partnership with Cr8football, using kinesthetic-based Maths, we supported the progression of young footballers (Year 5), as they transitioned into secondary school.

#### NHS Parent Winter Engagement Luncheon:

We partnered with the NHS Southwest London, to host a parent health awareness event. Information was shared on all the free health and medical support services that are available 24-7. Parents held confidential conversations on family health and well-being. Topics discussed included: vaccinations, scarlet fever and Strep A, money-saving tips, tackling loneliness and isolation and supporting parents with neurodiverse children.







#### **Our Supplementary School – Tutoring the next generation of leaders:**

Our Supplementary School empowers children ranging from Reception to Year 13 of different backgrounds and skillsets. Several children received subsidised study and utilised tuition to achieve greater results than they had ever had before.

We were delighted to hold a range of Mock Examinations (11+, GCSE, A-Levels) for several children over the course of 3 days during school holidays. The children sat English, Maths, Non-Reasoning and Science

papers. This helped parents understand what was expected of their children come their exams. **Parent Talk Events** were also held to help them navigate the British educational system, as some of our parents had not been educated in the UK.



### Christiana - our future lawyer?



"I joined BF4A in Year 4. I just finished studying at Epsom College and in September I will begin my Law with French degree at **Durham University**. I didn't know anything about private school before I applied for Epsom. It was Mrs Bryson who encouraged me to apply, and helped me through the application process. I was very blessed to get in and receive a 100% bursary to study there."

Don't miss the interview between Mrs. Bryson and Christiana, where she opens up about her childhood hardships and the pivotal role we played in her journey to success. Follow us on social media to catch the full interview release.

@brightfutures4all



# What do our parents think?



Nicole MOTHER OF



"It has been an amazing transition from where he was before. This place, for Zach, is like a safe haven. Karen is supportive and an amazing teacher. Here he gets the attention and focus he needs."

"It has been a wonderful, transformative, time for Noah. It's nice to have school with the additional love, nurturing, and pastoral care. That really sets BF4A apart. He's never had a home away from home before, and I'm confident he has that here."

Navina

MOTHER OF ZACH, YEAR 8



### **GOOD LUCK TO OUR FUTURE LEADERS**



As the time comes to bid farewell to our remarkable GCSE students, we wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations for your incredible journey thus far. As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, remember that you possess the potential to be future leaders. Farewell and good luck! The world awaits your brilliance and boundless potential!

Nathaniel has been a part of Bright Futures (BF4A) for 5 years, as a volunteer for our Holiday Clubs, but also as an SEND student.

"I came from a Primary School that didn't help me. In Year 7 I was struggling. Coming to Saturday school helped me become a better person, I stopped getting into trouble, and felt more confident in English lessons."

Sugi started at BF4A at the beginning of this year in preparation for his exams.

"BF4A has helped me get a better grade in English, I moved from a 3 to 5. In Maths I used to get 40/80, but now I achieve 60/80. The tutors are really nice, they've helped me with topics I struggled on. My Mum is very happy ."



We arranged for our A-level students, to mentor some of our pupils at Bright Futures 4 All. One of our pupils, Christ Victory shared the impact that this experience had made.

"Miss Diallo, helped me to learn onomatopoeia and helped me to get better in my English work and in Maths. When I found something difficult, she always taught me a better way to understand. I am now confident in my studying and when I don't understand I will do the method that she taught me. "

#### A Happy Mum - Vi-Mai

"I have seen Jayden grow more confident with his maths. He has a better understanding of more complex angles and 2D shapes. We continue to encourage him and Bright Futures 4 All have made a difference in consolidating his learning. Jayden has had to deal with bullying due to his special needs and being a child of mixed-heritage. Bright Futures 4 All has really stepped in and made significant changes."





Christian, Ethan & Grace.

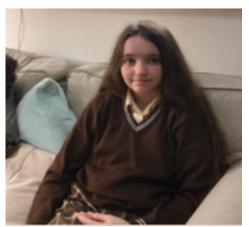


Mrs Bryson and her staff at Bright Futures 4 All were such a massive blessing to us and our children. Our three children benefited greatly from the different services that Bright Futures 4 All offer. Our 5 year old daughter and 10 year old son were enrolled in the virtual day school. Our 10 year old son also attended the evening 11+ tuition classes which were brilliant.

Our 5 year old daughter was able to finish a year ahead due to the level of teaching and support she received, the fact that everything was online it was remarkable how well organised and effective the learning was.

The 10 year old loved attending the regular bible study group where all the children were encouraged to lead praise and worship and share their love of God. His confidence has grown so much. Our 12 year old had after school maths tuition which he loved, his tutors were brilliant, they were very patient and good at breaking questions right down to their simplest forms so he could understand. He actually looked forward to his maths classes!

Cara has gained huge confidence over the last 2 years in her English skills while being in BF4ALL. In GCSE's her levels have increased from a predicted grade 3 to grade 5.





Note: Not his true name/picture

### AGAINST ALL ODDS, ARA HEADS TO ETON COLLEGE

Thanks to Bright Future 4 All, Ara attends the prestigious Eton college on full scholarship!

As a looked-after child, Ara had lots of challenges with his speech, emotions and self-esteem. When he was in Year 4, he struggled to spell simple words and his writing was ineligible. The traditional schools could not provide the care and attention Ara needed to thrive.

After just a one year programme of personalised tutoring and care with Bright Future 4 All, Ara underwent a complete transformation. He improved in Maths and English and gained greater confidence. He successfully undertook a series of 11+ exams and now will be attending Eton college.

Ara's mum: One day he came home and said "I love the way Mrs Bryson teaches writing." We are so grateful to Mrs Bryson and her team for helping Ara find his potential.



#### **Our Partners:**

Explore our partners, whose invaluable contributions have made our community projects and services possible, shaping a better tomorrow together.







**HBFT – Hillel Bright Futures Trust**: is a charity aiming to create a community hub supporting children and parents by building hope, resilience, and key vocational/academic skills. They strive to offer innovative, cost-effective solutions for educational and well-being needs, including funding places in a specialized school model for LAC and SEND children.

**Our Mission Statement**: To act as a resource for young people, up to the age of 18, living in Croydon and the surrounding London Boroughs by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:

a) Advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals

b) Advancing education

SHI FUTURES TRUST

c) Relieving unemployment

d) 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.

**HPS – Hillel Park School**: is an inclusive, affordable, private school aiming to blend traditional and technological education. They plan to offer 196 places for ages 4 to 16 when they open to the public, with an emphasis on nurturing academic brilliance and resilience in all students. They provide SEND support and aim to create determined and solution-focused pupils. HPS will open its doors once a suitable location has been secured.



#### **Our Next Steps:**

As a community interest company, we take seriously our vision of nurturing the next generation of leaders. We aim to achieve this among some of the most vulnerable members within our Croydon communities and far beyond in the UK.

Our three main goals include;

- 1. Launching the First Croydon After-School Club for children with SEND, ran by children with SEND,
- 2. Establishing mentoring programmes who can coach, counsel, and tutor.
- 3. Transitioning our Homeschooling Hub clients to a full-time school. To this regard, we are working towards opening Hillel Park School, as either an online or in-person full-time school.

#### **Reflections:**

The work for SEND children is crucial because there is a lack of integrated holiday clubs in Croydon where mainstream and special school students can mix. Currently, there are restricted provisions for SEND children in the summer holidays and after-school, leaving parents seeking support.

Croydon Key local findings data from 2020 shows a high prevalence of social, emotional, and mental health needs, as well as Autistic Spectrum Disorder among children with EHC Plans. The proposed provision would not only offer a safe space for play and social interaction for SEND children, but also provide much-needed respite for their caregivers. Equally, SEND Young Adults find it difficult to secure opportunities to develop workplace skills. This is because reasonable adjustments are needed. We aim to tackle this problem by recruiting SEND teenagers from local schools to run the After-School provision.

Finally, no similar trauma-informed, 'stay 'n' play' provision exist in Croydon for both SEND and non-SEND primary pupils, this unique initiative is vital for supporting children with high-SEMH needs and their carers.





