

Collective Impact Mid Year Report 2024



Introduction

Over the last fifteen years, the case for building essential skills has moved from intuitive to robust: our research has shown that higher levels of essential skills *boost earnings, job and life satisfaction, and halve the likelihood of being out of work or training*. They also promote higher social mobility.

That is why ensuring every child and young person has the opportunity to build essential skills in their formal schooling is absolutely critical.

The Skills Builder Accelerator programme trains teachers to embed best practice across an institution and transform their teaching so that all of their students benefit from better essential skills.

Our latest impact report shows that learners on the Accelerator made **2.7 times more progress** than their peers without a programme in 2022-23.

However, opportunities to build these skills are not distributed equitably. We want to work with the children and young people who would most benefit from boosting their essential skills, and ensure that schools and colleges serving the most disadvantaged communities are not excluded.

Higgins Partnerships brings us closer to this ambition by making the programme accessible to schools and colleges who would not get the opportunity without your support. We know that your generous donation will make a real difference for children and young people as the steps of progress reported on the Accelerator sets up each of them for a brighter future.

The generous contribution of £2,500 you provided for one school in London has already started to make an impact for learners taking part in this transformational programme.

This interim report provides an overview of the progress that has been made so far based on schools and colleges' feedback and testimonials.

Our impact would not be possible without the support of our valued partners like Higgins Partnerships. Thank you.



Overview of the school funded by Higgins Partnerships

Higgins Partnerships' Impact

So far, your generous grant of **£2,500** has contributed to:



1
school
supported



420
students
impacted



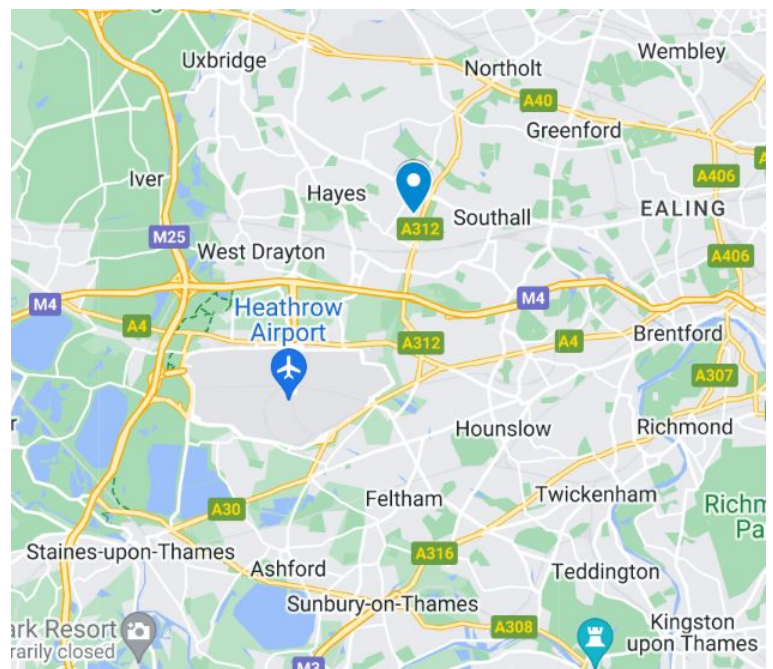
30
teachers
trained



1
primary school, Minet Junior School, funded by Higgins Partnerships in Hillingdon, London. *[See Appendix for full details.]*



On average, **24.2%** of students are eligible for Free School Meals in your school.









The project aims

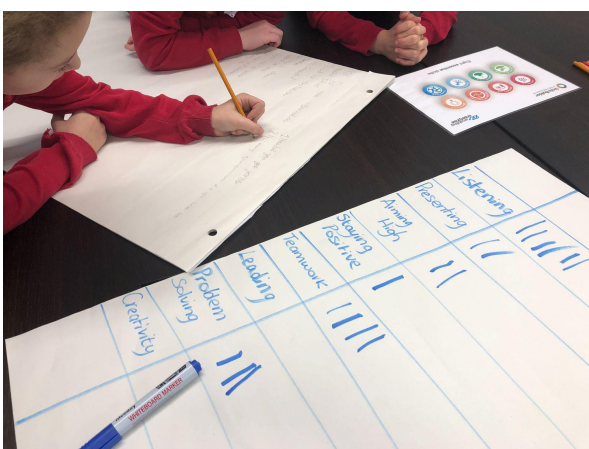
The Skills Builder Accelerator is our flagship capacity building programme for schools and colleges. At the end of the year, the programme results in a sustainable, long-term strategy, a team of confident teachers, demonstrable student progress and in many cases a Skills Builder Award.

The Accelerator aims to achieve three clear outcomes within each institution:

<h3>Improving essential skills education</h3> <p>Schools nominate a <i>Skills Leader</i> to work closely with our team of former teachers. Together, they develop a long-term strategy that's sustainable.</p>	<h3>Building teacher confidence</h3> <p>We provide expert training to all teaching staff, network events, strategy meetings and access to online assessment tools and resources.</p>	<h3>Driving student progress</h3> <p>Many choose to link the programme with existing provision for careers and employability, teaching and learning, character and capabilities and/or wider personal development.</p>
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Refined over a decade, the Skills Builder Principles outline best practice in teaching essential skills. They form the basis of schools' and colleges' strategies and their success embedding them will be recognised with the Skills Builder Award. For every step of every skill there's a suite of teaching and learning resources too. This means that teachers can hone in on the specific skill step that students need to learn next, supporting progress for all ages and abilities - including those with special educational needs. They are:

<p>Keep it simple</p> 	<p>Start early, keep going</p> 	<p>Measure it</p> 	<p>Focus tightly</p> 	<p>Keep practising</p> 	<p>Bring it to life</p> 
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Students at schools and colleges on the Accelerator make **2.7x** more progress than their peers

The impact

Thanks to the generous support of our partners like Higgins Partnerships, more schools and colleges are able to access the Accelerator programme. At this time of year, impact is already being observed on teachers and learners. It is measured against three clear outcomes:

Improving essential skills education

- **85%** of Skills Leaders believe the Accelerator programme is already having a positive impact across their institution.
- Schools and colleges have identified the Skills Builder Award they will work towards this year. The accreditation is valid for 3 years and enables institutions to evidence their commitment to essential skills.

85%
of Skills Leaders
already see a
positive impact in
their institution

Building teacher confidence

- **91%** of Skills Leaders reported increased confidence in teaching essential skills after training.
- We ensure they feel supported through the training and support provided by our team of experienced teachers.

91%
of Skills Leaders
are already
reporting higher
confidence teaching
essential skills

Driving student progress

- Our End of Term Autumn survey shows that teachers are already observing students progress in essential skills.
- We look forward to accessing data from our End of Year survey which will demonstrate the impact of the Accelerator in students building essential skills.

92%
of schools and
colleges have
already developed
their year-long
strategy

The next part of the programme

- Schools and colleges will attend the second Skills Leader training days. Skills Leaders will assess progress, gain inspiration and plan for impact.
- Schools and colleges will host the second round of school-wide Teacher Training sessions. These sessions are more tailored, focusing on the specific needs of each school or college. Attendees will leave with increased confidence in incorporating essential skills into their teaching practices, utilising Skills Builder tools and resources, and gradually developing their own.
- The year will conclude with a review for each school or college, evaluating their accomplishments, the impact on students, and future plans. In July 2024, thanks to your support, the school you funded will showcase sustained improvements, towards achieving a Skills Builder Award.

Collective impact

Celebrating 15 years of impact: In November 2023, we celebrated Skills Builder’s 15-year anniversary. From humble beginnings in 2008, by 2023 the number of learners directly participating in Skills Builder-delivered programmes was more than 240,000 with 220,000 attending Award-holding schools and colleges. More than 1.4 million learner programmes have been delivered by Skills Builder since 2008.



Join us at Essential Skills Tracker Launch 2024: On 26 March 2024, our annual Essential Skills Tracker research will demonstrate new findings on essential skills across the country and evidence the continued need to grow our impact and reach. We will be sharing invitations to the launch soon and would love for Higgins Partnerships to join us on the day.

Volunteer with us: In March and June 2024, we would be delighted if Higgins Partnerships could take part in our virtual Career Insights Weeks with schools and colleges across England. These events are highly impactful and help support the next generation to build the essential skills they need to succeed. Insights from Higgins Partnerships volunteers on the essential skills and the world of work will be extremely valuable to our learners.

Thank you

We want to renew our thanks to everyone at Higgins Partnerships for supporting students to build the essential skills they need to succeed.

We are grateful to our partners for embracing our collective approach.

By working together as a Partnership, systemic change is in reach – indeed, it is already underway.



Appendix: the school funded by Higgins Partnerships in 2023-24

School/ College	Phase of education	Local Authority	Count of students	Count of teachers trained
Minet Junior School	Primary	Hillingdon	420	30