



update

ARK's newsletter, reviewing the charity's vision and strategy, and reporting on the impact of programmes transforming children's lives

October 2009

INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

This month's *update* highlights ARK's progress in the education sector. In September, ARK opened two new academies in the UK, Charter Academy in Portsmouth and St Alban's Academy in Birmingham. Existing academies whose students sat GCSE's this year all made progress in improving results. There is still a long way to go, however, to give pupils the knowledge, qualifications and skill to go on to higher education or to pursue a career of their choice.

Meanwhile we are launching ARK Plus, ARK's newest education initiative, which provides intensive support to pupils who have found the move from primary to secondary school particularly difficult. This transition can be exceptionally challenging for children who are behind in their studies and who struggle academically and socially in the larger and more demanding secondary environment. ARK Plus is an intensive six month programme designed to develop the motivation and skills to succeed at school. It epitomises ARK's focus on bridging the achievement gap to ensure that children with lower prior attainment are able to benefit from quality education.

In Mozambique, ARK's programmes are beginning to have impact – particularly the efforts to provide AIDS treatment in government clinics, and mentor clinical staff in the delivery of these specialised services. This programme is benefiting from the recent appointment of Sue Fox as Country Director. Sue has over ten years HIV/AIDS programme experience from previous roles at the Red Cross, United Nations Association and UNAIDS.

We are delighted to announce that ARK's foster care model has been chosen by UNICEF to be rolled out in eight other regions across Bulgaria. In a country lacking an effective, national foster care system, this landmark should begin to lay foundations for a modern child care system on a much wider basis.

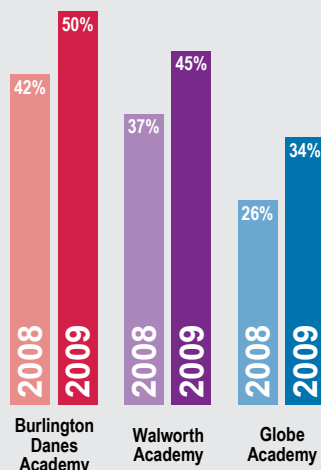
Paul Bernstein, Managing Director, ARK

OVERVIEW GCSE SUCCESS

ARK Schools is celebrating a third year of improvement in GCSE performance. The percentage of pupils achieving five GCSEs at A*- C including English and mathematics rose to 50% at Burlington Danes Academy (2008, 42%), 45% at Walworth Academy (2008, 37%) and 34% at Globe Academy, just nine months after opening (2008, 26% at predecessor school).

Since they opened as ARK academies, these three schools have achieved a weighted average annual increase in their rate of achievement of five GCSEs including English and maths of 7.7 percent – considerably above national improvement rates.

ARK Schools Managing Director, Lucy Heller, said "ARK academies set demanding targets to raise achievement this year and pupils and teachers worked really hard to improve performance. That focus will continue across our schools as we drive towards our target of all our pupils gaining the qualifications that will secure them university entrance."



EDUCATION NEW AND GROWING ACADEMIES

ARK opened two new academies in September. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, John Denham MP, visited Charter Academy in Portsmouth, which replaced St Luke's School. The Bishop of Birmingham and local MP, Roger Godsiff, were guests of honour at the opening of St Alban's Academy in Birmingham which replaced St Alban's CE Engineering College. These are the first ARK academies to be opened outside of London.

King Solomon Academy – whose primary school is now in its third, hugely successful year – opened its secondary school, admitting its first 60 pupils and moving both primary and secondary pupils into the new school building.



Burlington Danes Academy opened its sixth form with 97 pupils. The first intake has a strong maths and science bias, roughly one third of pupils expressing an interest in pursuing medical careers. Fifteen of the pupils have joined from outside Burlington Danes Academy.

All four openings have received huge enthusiasm from parents, pupils and the local press and 2010 admission sessions have been extremely well attended.



EDUCATION INTRODUCTION TO ARK PLUS

An estimated 100,000 children with disruptive and challenging behaviour are at risk of exclusion from mainstream schooling in the UK, most between the age of 14 and 15.

A common trigger for disaffection and poor behaviour is the transition from primary to secondary school. This is especially true for children who have not developed their literacy skills at primary school and then struggle academically in a larger, more demanding environment.

Few mainstream schools can provide the intensive support such pupils need to thrive at secondary school, which can lead to their becoming disaffected and disruptive. Without early intervention their problems may be hard to overcome: research shows that early preventative education programmes are far more effective than later reactive responses.

In November ARK launches ARK Plus an innovative new programme to ease the transition from primary to secondary school and give its pupils the skills, self-belief and motivation to be successful in their learning. The programme is housed in a 21st century learning space in Elephant and Castle and will initially provide places to 18 year 7 children (aged 11-12)

selected from three local ARK academies; Walworth, Globe and Evelyn Grace.

In the first half of the autumn term a few pupils will start to show signs of disaffection. By identifying such pupils at this early stage academies can offer pupils who will most benefit a place on the ARK Plus programme, giving their families the reassurance that the 24 week intervention will quickly improve their children's ability to succeed in their mainstream schooling.

ARK Plus is an intensive six month course to boost pupils' facility with English and maths, increase their engagement with learning and improve their behaviour and social skills. Classes will consist of five to seven pupils with specialist teachers. Pupils will return to their original academy for after schools enrichment activities for a couple of hours each week, maintaining the important peer group relationships which will ease their reintegration to their own classes next June.

Programme Director Bonita Holland says: "The launch of ARK Plus is really exciting. To achieve the best for all children, we sometimes need the time and resource to focus on particular needs very closely. This pioneering approach cements the very special partnership between three ARK academies to develop a unique programme that will dramatically improve the prospects of children who might otherwise fail to cope."

EDUCATION TEACHING LEADERS YEAR TWO

Teaching Leaders aims to increase pupil achievement in urban schools by developing inspirational middle leaders to lead exceptional teams of teachers.



This summer the programme's second cohort spent their first training week at the National College (formerly NCSL). Participants focused on planning improvement initiatives that they will launch in their schools during the two-year programme and on better understanding their own school contexts, leadership and management styles. One new trainee said: "The week was truly inspiring and has really set me up to make an impact when I return to school".

The programme offered 59 places across 47 urban schools in 2009 (including four ARK academies) - almost twice the first intake. Just one year in, the programme is already making a tangible impact on the lives of disadvantaged children, with Teaching Leaders outperforming their school averages by one grade. Almost one third of the first year's Teaching Leaders participants have already been promoted or had their responsibilities enhanced.

The programme's second cohort has been funded by the DCSF, National College and City Challenge, following ARK's investment in its first cohort. It is supported by Pearson Education, the British Council, the Mercers Charitable Trust, City Executive Centres and Eton College. It has gained recognition from the leading UK political parties and has been approached by countries interested in replicating the model.

EDUCATION FUTURE LEADERS REDRESSING THE DIVERSITY IMBALANCE

The profile of school leaders in the UK is dramatically less diverse than the pupils they teach, with a result that pupils from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds have far fewer positive role models around them. In a sample of 150 secondary schools appointing headteachers in 2007-08, only one appointee was from an ethnic group other than white. In terms of gender, although 60% of registered secondary teachers are female, only 32% of secondary headship appointments in 2007-08 were female.

Now in its fourth year, Future Leaders is working to redress this imbalance and is currently training 156 high calibre potential school leaders from a wide range of backgrounds. Of the 156 participants across the 2006-2009 cohorts, 53% are women, 24% are from BME backgrounds and 23% have recently had a career change into teaching (known as participants from 'non-traditional' backgrounds).

As Nicole Haynes, Future Leaders Cohort 2008, said, "Education plays a key role in changing negative social trends." The lack of positive role models within headship posts constrains the aspirations of teachers, pupils and the community. The programme recognises the benefit of leadership skills gained outside the classroom and actively recruits teachers who have recently changed career, widening the diversity of the potential leadership cohort. This enables Future Leaders to identify participants who may not otherwise have been recruited into senior school leadership and therefore increases the diversity of its aspirant school leaders. As a result of Future Leaders' diversity focus, of the four participants that have already achieved headship, two are from BME backgrounds and one is from a non-traditional background.



HIV/AIDS

DELIVERING ARK'S ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY PROGRAMME IN MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, with an estimated 1.5 million HIV-positive people, of which 7% are children. It is estimated that 400,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS. Following the success of its Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) programme in South Africa, ARK introduced an adapted programme in Mozambique. Clinical operations began in July 2008 with the aim of enrolling 4,500 caregivers and 500 children onto ART by the end of 2011.

The health system in Mozambique is desperately under-resourced with only 650 doctors for a population of 20 million. Existing health care workers need further training and mentoring on initiating and managing patients on ART. Thus, there is both a critical human resource gap in terms of the quantity of health care workers and the quality of their training in relation to HIV.

ARK is supporting the government of Mozambique to roll out an ART programme at the primary level of care across Maputo Province, which has one of the highest prevalence rates in the country. ARK has a clinical team made up of Mozambican and international doctors, medical technicians, nurses, counsellors and data capturers who support the four ARK supported government clinics across the province. This team works in these clinics to enable them to deliver sustainable and integrated HIV/AIDS care to patients. In addition to providing clinical services themselves, the team ensures the efficient sharing of skills, knowledge and experience with the government clinic staff based at these clinics. This mentoring focuses on the delivery of ART within an integrated health care model which includes testing and treatment for STIs, malaria, TB and maternal health.

In addition to building the capacity of government clinic staff, ARK has established a Young Doctors programme in partnership with the

University of Eduardo Mondlane. The partnership helps provide clinical support at ARK supported government clinics while providing essential mentoring of new graduates on HIV/AIDS management.

By September 2009, ARK had initiated 1,281 mothers and caregivers on treatment, benefitting over 3,500 children. This was achieved despite chronic shortages of clinic space and infrastructure. ARK is currently building additional facilities in the form of pre-fabricated buildings which are almost complete and will add much needed space for overall clinic operations.

In partnership with the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative, ARK also launched the Clinton-ARK Initiative for Mozambique (CAIM), a five year partnership which aims to increase access to HIV/AIDS services by addressing Mozambique's human resource crisis. CAIM is supporting the refurbishment of the Chicumbane medical training centre in Gaza Province, facilitating the training of a further 360 medical technicians by 2015 – one fifth of the government's national target.

CAIM recently launched a pilot programme to test the viability, patient benefits and cost-effectiveness of new Point of Care Technologies. The pilot study aims to improve HIV laboratory testing at the primary level of care. Tests no longer have to be sent away for analysis, but can be performed at local clinics and patients given results within the same consultation, speeding up care and reducing the risk of losing patients. Tests can be delivered by lab assistants, relieving the strain on senior doctors and specialist laboratory staff.

ARK's programmes in Mozambique are beginning to have a real impact in a resource poor environment, delivering high quality mentoring in integrated AIDS care and increasing access to life-saving treatment.



THANK YOU NEW PATRONS

We are delighted to welcome Anthony Williams, Nasser Azam and Paolo Basilico as Patrons of ARK. Anthony Williams is the sponsor of Walworth Academy in Southwark and in the last two years has also supported the HIV/AIDS programme in South Africa. Nasser Azam has been involved

with ARK since 2007, supporting sponsorship of the ARK Gala Dinner and donating to the development of one of ARK's newest academies, St Alban's Academy in Birmingham. Paolo Basilico, President and CEO of Kairos Group, has supported community programmes at Globe Academy and most recently the ARK Schools Music Programme. We are extremely grateful to our three newest Patrons for their ongoing and enlightened commitment to our work.

CHILDREN IN CARE UNICEF ROLLS OUT ARK'S FOSTER CARE PROGRAMME

Bulgaria has the highest rate of infant institutionalisation in Europe – with over 16,000 children living in 160 institutions. Stara Zagora, the region where ARK operates, has the highest number of institutionalised children in the country.



In February 2007, as part of its work to reform childcare in the region, ARK in partnership with Samaritani (a local NGO), launched Bulgaria's first regional foster care service in Stara Zagora with a public awareness and recruitment campaign. In the Stara Zagora region there had been no formal foster care service at all and only one child had ever been fostered.

Since the programme was launched, ARK has placed 11% of the total number of children fostered in Bulgaria. The numbers are still small (16 in total), but is the beginning of a major shift in childcare in the country. Earlier this year, UNICEF assessed existing foster care services in Bulgaria and concluded that ARK's was the most comprehensive model. They have therefore decided to finance the expansion of ARK's model to eight other regions within Bulgaria. This is an excellent testimony to the quality of work done by ARK and its partners, especially the Foster Care Team. ARK believes this roll-out goes a long way to ensuring the sustainability of its programme and hopes that this will help give greater momentum to foster care in Bulgaria, which has been steadily expanding over the last two years.

OUR MODEL

ARK is an international charity whose purpose is to transform children's lives:

- Founded in 2002 by leaders in the alternative investment industry with a shared vision of collective philanthropy
- A direct implementor to maximise impact and ensure measurability and accountability
- Investment philosophy of high social return on investment
- Trustees and Patrons ensure 100% of donations go directly to fund programmes
- Funds committed as soon as pledged, not endowment based

Direct Implementation:

Management teams, combining passionate experts with programme directors, deliver ARK's programmes which are:

- Transformational for children
- Effective and efficient
- Leveraged
- Researched and evidence based
- Scaleable and sustainable
- Driving systemic change

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