



Let's connect our teenagers to the world!

Founders4Schools partners with EdTech company World is a Village to build bridges between schools and students in the UK, Europe, and the world.

At Founders4Schools we believe passionately that we all play an important role in preparing the next generation for the future.

Our focus is on inspiring young people no matter their background, to shine a light on the career pathways available and to prepare them for the rapidly changing world of work. This means ensuring they have the right skills needed to achieve their potential. It is becoming increasingly clear that language skills will become more important in the UK's future and as such our young people must be prepared.

We are living through testing times. The dual impact of the COVID pandemic and BREXIT on the UK will reverberate through our economy and society for some time. In terms of language education, the impact is clear. At a time when our country should be investing in developing language skills, socialising is difficult and travelling almost impossible. Meanwhile, as Brexit becomes a reality, the consequences for schools and students hit home, for example, the UK withdrawing from the ERASMUS and eTwinning programmes. . Coupled with the knowledge that foreign language learning is at its lowest level in UK secondary schools since the turn of the millennium and GCSE entries have been falling for years.

It is our role, as educators, parents, and future employers to mitigate these effects by finding new ways for our children and teenagers to socialise, make new friends abroad and open up to new cultures. This builds their language skills, helping them to gain confidence in communicating with others and **making them work and world ready.**

To achieve this, Founders4Schools have partnered with EdTech specialist **World is a Village** to create new ways to connect schools and teenagers across borders – both **digitally and physically**. Together we believe we can build new bridges between young people in and out of the UK through invaluable skill building extra curricular activities.

World is a Village's Digital Journey is an online educational programme aimed at fostering conversation between teenagers in different countries and boosting their confidence in foreign languages in a fun and relaxed environment. Weekly games, quizzes, missions supervised by bilingual coaches help bring the teenagers together to practice a foreign language but also, just as importantly, open up new cultures and ways of life.

These digital friendships will translate into trip opportunities when borders reopen, whether organised by schools or by the families individually. **World is a Village's homestay platform** is a great tool for families to connect with like-minded families and organise homestay trips for their kids.

Our mission is to bridge the gap between education and the world of work. Through this partnership, we aim to **help our pupils build an international network and develop their knowledge of the world around them** – making our children more open-minded and more connected prepares them for the rapidly changing world in which we live. These soft skills are essential 21st century skills and critical to increase employability.

Inspire young people today, and help change their future.

Michaela Eschbach, Founders4Schools

January, 2021

In partnership with:

