

**PRESS RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 16 APRIL 2018**

## **Pioneering “AI” Teacher’s Dashboard unlocks work experience opportunities for all UK students**

*Workfinder launches a new classroom service embedded with AI recommendations to help teachers guide meaningful work experience opportunities for their students.*

**16 April, 2018. London, UK.**

Govtech charity, [Founders4Schools](#) in partnership with [UFI](#) and [Nominet Trust](#) have innovated the UK’s first “smart” teacher’s dashboard to empower teachers to easily request bursary funded work experience “vouchers” and to monitor and guide the progress of their students.

The purpose of the new service is to increase the opportunities for students to prepare for the world of work, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds without sufficient parental or professional networks to access meaningful work experience placements.

[Founders4Schools](#) have implemented AI based recommendations designed by their resident data scientist to present students with meaningful work experience placement suggestions that they may not have previously considered. The teacher is able to monitor these “smart recommendations”, along with the student’s applications and progress. The teacher is then able, at a glance, see which students are booking placements and those that may be falling behind. The teacher is empowered to intervene to offer guidance to their struggling students and even pair them up with the better performing students to encourage leadership skills and teamwork.

The service is still in trial but is due to release in May 2018 to all teachers registered on Founders4Schools. Schools interested in using the new service can register on their website for free here: <https://founders4schools.org.uk/search/>

**-ends-**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Company status**

- Companies must be active and registered in the UK.
- Women-led includes Non-executive directors.
- Companies with less than £ 1 Million & > £ 250 Million turnover are excluded from the analysis.
- Companies that were not growing were excluded from the analysis.

### **Sector benchmarking**

Having identified the long list, the eligible companies are then separated into their LinkedIn Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) grouping.

Within each SIC sector, the companies are ranked by their individual growth rate; and those that have most outperformed their sector averages are identified.

### **Size and age**

Independent company or consolidated group revenues must be between £1m-£250m, based on latest Companies House filings which were obtained via the DueDil Fintech startup.

### **For further information:**

Travers Lee [travers.lee@founders4schools.org.uk](mailto:travers.lee@founders4schools.org.uk)  
CMO

### **About Founders4Schools:**

### **ENDS**

Founders4Schools (F4S) builds smart connections between schools and the world of work. As a GovTech charity operating in the education sector, it is dedicated to improving the ecosystem for scaleups by closing the skills gap.

F4S works with enterprise advisors, school coordinators and head teachers in primary and secondary schools throughout England and Scotland to help their pupils aged 8 to 16 reach the milestone of at least four encounters with employers each year and to help their pupils aged 16-24 reach the milestone of 140 hours of work experience placements.

F4S works nationally and locally with organisations including the Science Park Association, the LEP Network, LinkedIn, Duedil, Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC), the CBI, FSB, IoD,

DWY, Royal Society, British Chambers of Commerce, LEPs and Local Authorities. National partners include the BBC, Barclays Bank, The Hunter Foundation, Villiers Park Educational Trust, The Evolution Education Trust, Prince's Trust, UFI, Peter Cundill Foundation and Nominet Trust, FutureLearn, Freeformers, Career Ready, TeachFirst and Young Enterprise. Local partners include regional government such as Camden Council, as well as public, private and third sector business, and community support groups and networks. Their programmes help educators to connect with successful, growing businesses through a wide variety of career and business encounters.

Their work-experience service, Workfinder, which is available on mobile phones, puts the young person at the centre of the search process and enables them to gain work experience and apprenticeship roles with fast-growing businesses within their local communities.

The programme is sustained by more than 2,000 partners and 35,000 business leaders of startups and scaleups who volunteer their time. More than 120,000 young people have had on average two encounters with business leaders. After such encounters, 96% reported feeling inspired by the speakers, 87% said they wished to go into business (versus the national average of 60%) and 54% were keen to go on to study STEM subjects (twice the national average).