



## Announcement

### Founders4Schools announces Trustee appointment

**[London, September 12, 2018]** Leading GovTech charity Founders4Schools, has announced the appointment of Mary Curnock Cook as a Trustee on 1 September 2018. Mary will help steer F4S to scale up positive career interactions for hundreds of thousands more young people, in collaboration with educators, partners, parents, business leaders, local authorities and the students themselves.

F4S do this by offering over twenty different classroom and work experience services, which are easy for teachers to arrange and help young people steer their course through the future world of work.

Mary Curnock Cook has a deep understanding of the education sector, with an emphasis on people who are under-represented or disadvantaged. Specifically, she will help F4S ensure they maintain quality in the services offered to students, at whatever their stage of education.

Mary was Chief Executive of UCAS from 2010 to 2017. Prior to that she was Director of Qualifications and Skills at the QCDA.

She now sits on The Open University Council, is a NED for The Student Loans Company and is a senior advisor to Cairneagle Associates. She chairs the Access Project, is a Trustee of multi-academy trust, United Learning and is on the Advisory Board of the Higher Education Policy Institute. She is also an investor/mentor to a number of EdTech startups.

Founders4Schools has worked with thousands of teachers, schools and businesses to broker nearly 630,000 student-employer encounters (SEE's), each of which has the potential to change the course of a life. These SEE's inspire young people by helping them understand what skills are needed to improve their employability and are particularly important for more marginalised young people who lack access to professional role models in their immediate environment.

Research from Education and Employers<sup>1</sup> has shown that just four encounters with business leaders reduces the likelihood of young people becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) by 86%.

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<sup>1</sup> Mann, A., Kashfepakedel, E.T., Rehill, J, and Huddleston, P. (2017). Contemporary transitions: Young Britons reflect on life after secondary school and college. Education and Employers Research.



Commenting on the appointment, Sherry Coutu, Executive Chair and CEO, Founders4Schools, said: “We are delighted that Mary has chosen to join our board at this important time for the charity. Founders4Schools celebrates its third birthday in 2018 and we couldn’t have achieved the success we have or made a difference to so many young lives without the expertise, counsel and energy of our dedicated board of Trustees.

“We have ambitious plans to improve the life chances of many more young people, by giving them access to the inspiring decision makers in their community, and the new and deep skills that she brings will help us to do this much faster.”

Commenting on the announcement, Mary Curnock Cook said: “Founders4Schools takes away the hard graft for schools looking for inspiring speakers and work experience for their students. This is a much needed game-changer and I’m thrilled to be involved.”

**ENDS**

### **About Founders4Schools**

Founders4Schools is an award-winning charity dedicated to improving employment prospects for students aged 6-24 years, by connecting them with business leaders and in doing so closing the skills gap that holds back economic growth.

Over 20 different types of services including career talks, workplace visits and work experience placements are available to educators and students across over 300 local authorities in England and Scotland. Business leaders who connect with young people through Founders4Schools are those most in need of modern skills to grow their businesses.

Aligned to Gatsby benchmarks and the Enabling Enterprise Skills Builder, thousands of head teachers and parents can rely on Founders4Schools to make it easy for every child to meet with at least one ‘employer’ in their classroom while they are between the age of 6 and 16, and to secure 140 hours of work experience between the ages of 16 and 18 years, which has been proven to significantly improve their prospects.