



Your Alumni Community



An Alumni Community for
Every School and College

INTRODUCTION

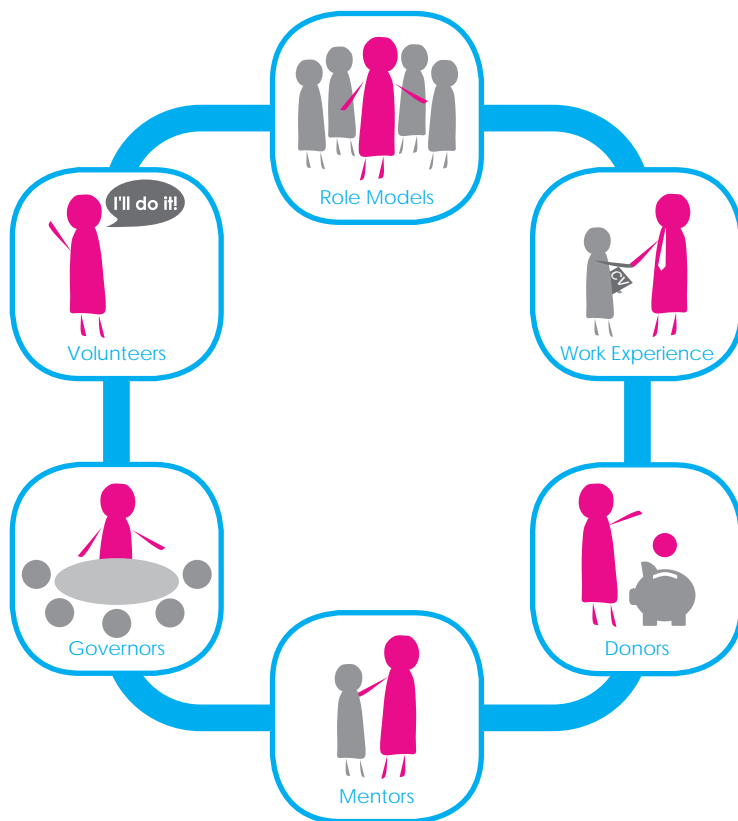
Future First's vision is that every state school and college should be supported by a thriving, engaged alumni community.

For generations, private schools and universities have effectively harnessed the talent, time and support that former students can share. Now, Future First is making it easy and inexpensive for state schools and colleges to do the same.

Future First is a UK-registered charity that started when a group of former state school students began volunteering at their old school, helping give careers talks to young people who didn't always have access to people in jobs at home.

The Potential

Among the alumni of every school and college, there is a whole range of inspiring career and education role models, volunteers, work experience providers, governors, donors, mentors and e-mentors.



HOW IT WORKS

Future First helps schools and colleges build alumni networks by offering the infrastructure and expertise that make it quick and easy to do so.

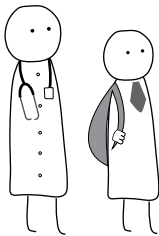
We combine expert support in building, engaging and making the most of your network with an intelligent database platform that sits at the heart of the programme.

We know how busy school and college life is, so our team of Networks Officers will work with you to make it as easy as possible.

Future First schools and colleges have access to the following:

- A secure, online database which allows you to filter and search alumni records and see how they're keen to support;
- A dedicated Networks Officer to assist with building, engaging and mobilising your network;
- How-to guides, lesson plans and support in recruiting former students via press and social media outreach;
- Online and paper forms to collect both current and former students' details;
- Up to ten communications a year to keep your alumni connected;
- Opportunity to benefit from national Future First PR campaigns to recruit older former students;
- Free opportunities for your students to attend Insight Days with leading UK employers as part of our Employers' Programme.

Sign up



Future First helps you sign up current leavers and former students who have left over the years.

Students departing this year...

...can stay connected from the moment they leave, helping you build your network from the ground up. These school/college leavers can sign up online via a dedicated sign-up link, or on paper forms that we input into our secure, tailor-made alumni database.

Older alumni...

...can sign up too. It doesn't matter if you haven't stayed in contact with them before; we'll work through our own social media outreach and national campaigns to reconnect you with them and we can also help you arrange your own events, local press engagement and social media outreach if you wish.

ENGAGEMENT

Every school and college is paired with a dedicated Networks Officer to help manage its network. A key aim of their role is to ensure former students are contacted regularly enough to keep them feeling part of the school/college community. With input from our teacher contact(s), our Networks Officers send up to ten e-mail or text message communications a year to keep your alumni engaged and to encourage them to offer their support.

These might take the form of newsletters updating your alumni with what's new at your school or college, or they might be invitations to offer work experience, mentor a current student or come back to speak about their career pathways.



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Keeping in touch



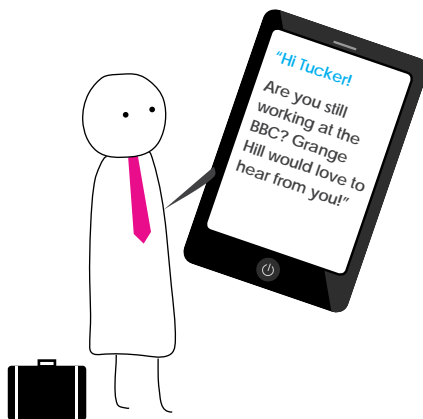
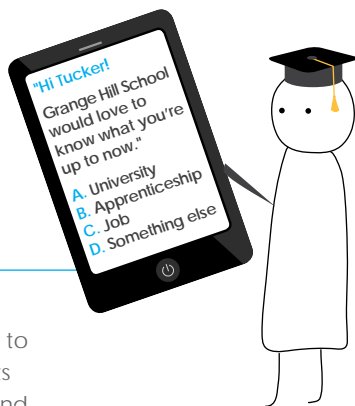
An Example Future First Timeline

- JAN** Alumni sent an email/SMS inviting them to provide work experience for Year 10s and to join February careers event.
- FEB** Six former students return to talk to Year 11s about the paths they took post-16.
- APR** This year's leavers sign up to stay connected after they leave.
- MAY** Alumni sent a school/college newsletter with interesting updates to keep them engaged.
- JUL** Future First send out an email with resources and opportunities that your network might want to get involved in.

TRACKING

Future First helps schools and colleges to track the paths of their former students as they progress through education and employment.

Every year, we ask each former student to let their old school/ college know what they are doing now. After replying online or by text message, all the data automatically updates on each school/college's own dashboard, so you have the latest information about what your students have gone on to do.



AUG This year's leavers receive a good luck text on behalf of the school/ college ahead of results day.

SEP Former students sent an update on school/college plans for the new year and are asked for their support.

OCT Year 7 assembly starts with successful former students talking about how they still use the skills they learnt at school in their jobs today.

NOV Alumni receive an email/SMS requesting an update on their current work/education status.

DEC Former students receive an email/SMS wishing them a great break on behalf of your school/college.

Teachers' Dashboard



Every school and college has access to a personalised online dashboard, through which details of your alumni community can be found and filtered e.g. by course studied, job, leaving year or pledged support type. This can help you to choose which alumni to get in touch with about different opportunities to support your students.

MOBILISING YOUR NETWORK

CAREER ROLE MODELS



Former students who are now in jobs or higher education can be inspirational – and relatable – role models for current students. They can be invited back to speak about their journey from school/college to the jobs/courses they are in today and the lessons they've learnt along the way.

Future First provides session plans and network building support to help you run your own alumni workshops or assemblies. There is also the option for Future First to plan and organise these sessions, even providing staff to act as facilitators on the day to help the alumni to share their stories in an accessible, interactive way. All Future First assemblies and workshops are tailored to a school/college's needs, as well as the stage the current students are at.

WORK EXPERIENCE PROVIDERS



Your alumni community might also be able to offer work experience placements to current students.

Future First can:

- ▶ Identify and prepare alumni
- ▶ Liaise with teachers to arrange and plan the session to match students' needs
- ▶ Facilitate the event on the day



80% of students leave our events saying that hearing from former students makes them want to work harder now

"It's brilliant that former Preston Manor students are now offering work experience placements for students who are still here. It's really difficult to find work experience for all of our students and our alumni are an amazing new source."

Christel Thames – Careers Coordinator, Preston Manor School

E-mentoring platform

MENTORS/E-MENTORS



Alumni can be engaged to act as relatable mentors, in person or in a secure, online space.

Future First has launched an e-mentoring platform,

giving current students the chance to get one-to-one support from former students, even if they've moved away from the area. This unique web platform is designed to ensure that mentees and mentors are safe, supported and engaged.



GOVERNORS



"I was delighted to see the strength of response from ex-students interested in joining our Board of Governors."

Rebecca Westgate – Assistant Principal, BSix Sixth Form College

VOLUNTEERS

Future First research shows:



10 MILLION adults across the UK would be happy to volunteer to support their old school or college

DONORS

Future First research shows:



UK schools and colleges could raise

£75m

in donations from former students



"We haven't got a tradition of having an alumni network, but we realise it's a gap, and it's one that Future First is helping us to fill. It gives us all sorts of potential for the future and will make life at Silverdale a lot more effective and a lot better for our current students."

Mike Pollard – Deputy Head, Silverdale School

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