



NEWSLETTER 46 - Spring 2019

LAUNCH OF OUR NEW PROGRAMME: THE BIG THINK

The big event of this spring for us has undoubtedly been the launch of our brand new **The Big Think** programme for children aged from 4 to 11. This proved every bit as challenging as we had expected, but our talented team of writers, illustrators, musicians and technicians, led by our Curriculum Developer Sarah Pengelly, responded magnificently to our most ambitious project ever and have produced a wonderful resource to support the healthy social and emotional development and general wellbeing of young people everywhere.

With children currently experiencing unprecedented levels of stress and anxiety, this programme can make real differences not only in the UK but also, we hope, around the whole world. The web-based delivery of the programme gives it a potential reach far beyond what we could ever achieve with our previous programmes. The language and indeed the whole texture of the new programme has been brought bang up to date, but the essential structure, based on the five powerful core values, remains the same.

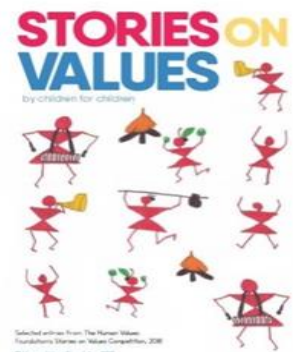
The programme has already been trialled extensively in three schools in and around London, and the feedback from them has been highly enthusiastic. As a teacher from one of the pilot schools, North Harringay Primary School, said “*I can’t think why any school wouldn’t want to do it!*”!

Please do have a look for yourself at the Big Think’s dedicated new website the-big-think.org.

WORLD VALUES DAY 2018 AND OUR STORIES ON VALUES BY CHILDREN

The theme for World Values Day 2018 was *Values in the Community*. Involvement around the world in the campaign leading up to the actual day was as energetic as ever. In the UK on 19 October #WorldValuesDay hashtag trended at number 1 on Twitter - a great achievement, far exceeding the previous year’s success.

As part of the celebrations for this global event we held our third **Stories on Values competition**. This project encourages very young citizens to think about the powerful influences of well-chosen values, especially when applied to everyday situations and activities and how they help to prioritise what is important and positively impact wellbeing, relationships, community life and responsible management of the environment. We invited schools and other organisations involved with children to send in original stories written by learners aged from 7 to 11.



From early September to mid-October wonderfully creative, insightful tales and artwork poured in based on each child's chosen value from the list of over 80 that are explored during the lessons in our EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES (EHV) teaching resource.

Chair of our 2018 panel of judges, [Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green](#), who served as the first Children's Commissioner for England from 2005 to 2010 and is an internationally recognised authority on children's services, child health and childhood, commented on the shortlisted "amazing submissions" - *"Every one of them is outstanding in the quality of thinking and ability to convey some profound thoughts. I was particularly struck by the compassion that was repeatedly displayed arguing well for attitudes in their homes and schools for instilling such humanity in children so young."*

Such was the quality of the children's work, all three judges, Sir Al, [Dr Jill Berry](#) and [Sonia Gill](#), found the task of selecting the best entries pretty difficult but "a welcome problem", which resulted in joint winners, both from India. Sir Al commented that *"This is an exercise to be celebrated and gives me much hope for our next generation."*

In January we published a booklet containing over 40 of the best stories sent in, together with many perceptive illustrations. To download and enjoy this collection from our website: [click here](#).

Human Values Foundation Story Competition 2019

As more and more schoolchildren begin to appreciate the empowering and transformational effects of positive values and how they can make systemic differences to people's behaviour, the wellbeing of all living things and responsible management of our planet, we will be welcoming entries for this year's Stories on Values competition during the three months leading up to the fourth World Values Day, which will be celebrated on 17th October.

Do look out on our website for an announcement of the details of our 2019 competition and all relevant dates and entry details.

AT LONG LAST, MOVEMENT TOWARDS A BETTER BALANCED EDUCATION

The HVF, "a beacon of light" in the education sector

The Human Values Foundation charity was established in August 1995 by the late June Auton, an experienced primary school teacher who was passionate about advancing the quality and effectiveness of education by enabling schools to provide a much better balance between children making progress with academic subjects and their development as rounded human beings. June pioneered Values Education in the UK and for two years prior to 1995 she developed and piloted our first holistic programme EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES (EHV) for children aged 5 to 11. She ran workshops for teachers throughout the UK and sometimes overseas too, introducing them to the broad range of benefits arising from implementing EHV. Her work led to the Human Values Foundation being described as a *beacon of light* in one national newspaper.

On moving up into their secondary school, in 2001 a group of children who had found EHV lessons so helpful reported back to Mrs Auton with consternation, *"Miss, it's a nightmare! None of our new classmates know anything about values. What are you going to do about it?"* So typical of June, she

immediately set about devising another programme, which we first published in 2003. SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EDUCATION (SEE) was designed for ages 12 to 14, although it has also proved helpful for some older children being assisted to get their lives “back on track”.

Ofsted framework to support character development from September 2019

For some time now a wide cross-section of stakeholders involved in how children are growing up have felt that character development is an important yet often overlooked part of modern education and that young citizens need to be better equipped with tools and skills that enable them to thrive and manage their day-to-day lives effectively. We have been very pleased to see this movement emerging during the past decade and the increasingly wider recognition that, whatever their starting points in life, nurturing strong character traits in children supports improved academic attainment with the qualities they master helping them later on by enhancing their employment prospects, workplace productivity and constructive contributions to society.

In a white paper published in July 2018 ([The Opportunities and Challenges offered by Character Education](#)), the first recommendation was that the Department for Education takes the lead in establishing a clear definition for character development and that it should then be applied across Government and communicated effectively to education, business, community and youth-sector leaders. It was proposed that **character development** be defined as: *when people align their actions with their considered values*.

A revised Ofsted framework for education inspections that was finalised this summer to take effect from September 2019, states that *schools have a duty to support the character development of their pupils*. Those in England will be expected to demonstrate explicitly how they are developing the character of their pupils. This requirement makes the recent launch of our latest comprehensive programme for children aged 4 to 11, THE BIG THINK (TBT: the-big-think.org) all the more timely. Like June Auton, Sarah Pengelly, who developed the TBT curriculum, is an experienced primary school teacher keen to promote changes in education policy so that there is a shift away from the intense focus on test and exam results towards integrated, whole-child development that prepares young people well for life in today’s world and as the future unfolds.

TBT has been carefully designed to address children’s wellbeing and character development and therefore we hope that academies and schools throughout the UK will welcome it as a very effective, empowering resource for providing high-quality education for all their pupils. Judging by feedback while we have been piloting it, school leaders and their teachers responsible for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) provision will be particularly excited by the structured, collaborative, whole-school approach and the systemic differences it makes to the school’s culture along with the potential it has to engage parents and help raise performance in all the key judgement areas of Ofsted assessments, these being:

- the quality of the education being provided, especially the curriculum
- learners’ behaviour and attitudes
- children’s personal development
- the school’s leadership and management.

We feel that Ofsted's intention to embrace character development is very encouraging and a major turning point for more holistic education, which we hope will not only be adopted in England but throughout the whole of the UK.

We have our work cut out as we look forward to filling a gap in teachers' training by providing practical support that fosters children's wellbeing and character development. There are in excess of 16,500 state primary schools in England, over 1,200 primary school in Wales, more than 2,000 in Scotland and around 800 in Northern Ireland and The Big Think is likely to appeal to many of the 2,000+ independent schools in the UK.

A MAJOR ISSUE – THE DEARTH OF VALUES EDUCATION TRAINING

Numerous surveys in recent years indicate that significant numbers of teachers responsible for PSHE education do not feel properly equipped to deliver this component of the school's curriculum adequately. Our experience tells us that Values Education improves the quality and effectiveness of PSHE but there are few if any opportunities for such training for teachers, whether as an integral part of their initial training or their continuing professional development (CPD).

School budgets are very tight and teachers are pressed for time so we need help financially and in practice with the teacher training we can offer and we hope that you can assist us in achieving our ambitious targets, possibly helping to sponsor this vital aspect of our work with teachers and others guiding, mentoring and raising children. (In our accounts we have a 'Fund for Schools' into which we put donations from supporters who want us to help primary schools, particularly those in deprived areas. Your donations will go towards their subscription for The Big Think and/or training.) In reality funding is key to improving children's education experience and the more donations we receive, the more we can share our experience and encourage best practices as we facilitate the use of The Big Think. It is as simple as that.

We aim to give teachers the knowledge, ideas and resources needed to build a rich, relevant 'wellbeing and character development' curriculum and constructive pastoral care and have drawn on feedback while piloting The Big Think to devise engaging and motivational training courses.

Our **TBT Training** is interactive, grounded in educational research and highly practical. We offer three types of bespoke sessions for schools or groups of schools so that they can confidently, knowledgeably and effectively implement The Big Think in ways that meet their needs:

- a **full day's training** can comprise:
 - a School Community Values Dialogue that supports a shared understanding of values
 - a Staff workshop to build confidence in using TBT and promote a collaborative culture
 - a Parents' workshop to gain buy-in from them so they can support their children's progress
 - Assemblies and Lessons demonstrations
 - a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Planning Session
- a **half day's training** consists of some chosen elements from the Full Day options.

- a **Twilight workshop** comprises selected options from the Full Day options. This workshop is likely to take place at the end of a school day, perhaps from 4.00 pm to cater for parents' availability but in some schools where the SLT sees it as a priority and recognises the importance of training across the whole school, they might well prefer to finish the school day slightly earlier than usual so that staff are less tired and the session doesn't eat into time generally spent marking and planning and therefore teachers could feel better able to absorb the innovative and engaging content of the programme.

MEET THE TEAM



We are very pleased to introduce Jessica Ball, who was appointed a Trustee in February 2019. Jessica works to promote a socially and environmentally sustainable world and is passionate about creating meaning, connection and action from a foundation of shared values.

Having established Creating Meaning, she facilitates culture change and mindful communication practices that are grounded in Bohm dialogue, non-violent communication, mindfulness and creativity.

Jessica has supported training and implementation of The Big Think programme in our pilot schools so that going forward, teachers will be able to confidently and effectively introduce their learners aged from 4 to 11 to *Values Dialogue* techniques. The trusting, supportive classroom environments that the children help to create will progressively improve relationships, unlock new ways of thinking and nurture communication skills by encouraging everyone's participation, deep, respectful listening, non-judgement, curiosity and being open to different perspectives.

REMEMBERING AUDREY NIGHTINGALE-YOUNG

It is with great sadness that we report on the passing of Audrey Nightingale-Young at the age of 87, an active, always very stimulating Member of the HVF. Audrey was a charming person with a sunny personality and blessed many talents that gave her and those who knew her, enormous pleasure. Such was her concern for the wellbeing of children that for a number of years when a school bought a copy of Education in Human Values, thanks to Audrey's wonderful generosity, we were also able to give it the accompanying CD of soothing Music For Reflection and the CD of values songs within the EHV lesson plans. We are honoured that at the start of the superb tribute to her by her family during the service to celebrate her life, love was described in very meaningful words taken from the Education in Human Values programme. Audrey will be deeply missed by us, her family and her friends.

DONATIONS

It has certainly been an enormous challenge but we have been able to develop our innovative new programme and the website for *The Big Think* only because of all our amazingly generous supporters and we wish to thank all of you for your remarkable financial assistance that allows us to go on helping to improve the quality of children's lives and in doing so, the fabric of society now and for years to come.

We would like to pay tribute to the trustees of The Allen Charitable Trust, the Joan Ainslie Charitable Trust, The Tony Metherell Charitable Trust and the member of a family trust for donations that will enable us to work with struggling, underperforming primary schools, particularly in relatively deprived areas of England.

Our thanks also go to the trustees of The Miss J K Stirrup Charity Trust for a grant that means we will be able to assist some primary schools in North West England and another trust that has given us a donation so that we can positively impact schools and their pupils in Leicestershire.

We are extremely indebted to all our loyal Members and Friends who undoubtedly make it possible for us to continue to work to improve the quality of young people's lives and prospects. We are most grateful to all those who wish to remain anonymous as well as Caroline Airstrop, Kevin Auton, Jill Bell, Bob Bray, Brenda and Norman Clark, Jacqueline Clark, Helen Colbeck, Suresh Dewan, Winkie Harrison, Carol Hellyer, Rita Jefferies, Linda Jones, Anamika Maharaj, Lois Marshall, Sue Moss, Anthony and Nicole O'Flaherty, Adrian Price, Shrawan Rathore, Penelope Sapiro, Thelma Selby, Suparna Sen, Nigel Shamash, Tonia Silk, Geoffrey and Ann Steinberg, Polly Stone and Maureen Watson – *and all who shop online using [smile.amazon](https://www.smile.amazon) and have nominated the Human Values Foundation as the recipient of donations from Amazon.*

Our most pressing need now is to be able to support teachers' training in Values Education and implementing The Big Think with the active, collaborative support of teachers, non-teaching staff, school governors, parents and carers so do please encourage your friends, family members, colleagues and others to visit our websites and support us financially so that we can continue to be a beacon of light, helping to advance the quality and richness of education, especially for young people setting out on life.

AND FINALLY ...

Undoubtedly there is an increasing appreciation of really valuing and acting upon what is important in life and growing numbers of people are better understanding the need for young citizens to benefit from good, systematic values education, character development and the nurturing of life competencies, so THANK YOU all so much for your exceptional contributions, encouragement, voluntary work and practical support, without which we would not be able to continue to promote children's social, emotional, moral and spiritual growth – elements found to be present where intellectual advancement and academic achievement are being maximised.

If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas about gaining sponsorship for our various ongoing projects or would like to have some e-materials about The Big Think programme to share with your friends, family members, potential subscribing Friends of our charity and others, please contact:

Rosemary Dewan, Human Values Foundation,
The Coach House, Salisbury Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0AJ

Alternatively do ring 01403 259711 or e-mail: yes2values@hvf.org.uk.

The charity's website is: www.humanvaluesfoundation.com.

The Big Think's website is: the-big-think.org.

The Human Values Foundation team wishes all our readers a happy and healthy summer.

Patrons: Sir Michael Morpurgo, OBE, FRSL, FKC, DL;

Prof Kamran Mofid, PhD; Dr Kevin Auton, PhD

Education Advisor: Sir Anthony Seldon, MA, PhD, FRSA, MBA, FRHisS, FKC

