



The Public Benefit delivered by the schools of The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust) 2007/8

Introduction

The Bedford Charity pursues its charitable objects – **education, relief and recreational facilities** – by grant making, providing almshouses, social policy work and operating independent schools.

The Charity administers four independent schools, which cater for boys and girls from the ages of 7 to 18, and nominates the directors of HPPS Ltd, which runs Pilgrims Pre-Preparatory School. The first of these schools was established in Bedford in 1552. The schools currently educate 3,965 pupils, of which 3,706 are from the UK.

Grant Making. The details of the grants programme and the public benefit it provides are outlined elsewhere but it is important to note that this programme is expected to increase to about £1.4m pa by 2011 as a result of the Trustees' decisions in the Strategic Plan¹. This increase will be made possible by the progressive transfer of responsibility for funding the bursary programme (which will be maintained or increased) to the schools, which in turn will release investment income from the endowment to be used for the grants programme. The additional benefit to the community of Bedford and north Bedfordshire will be immense.

Almshouses. The Charity provides 39 almshouse dwellings for frail and older residents. The public benefit provided by almshouses, which assist those who are just outside the criteria for assistance by the State yet who are often in great need, is significant and will become more so as the population ages.

The schools also become directly involved in the almshouse activity. For example, pupils and staff assist in organising and running an annual "Summer Garden Party" for about 100 local residents (including the residents of the Charity's almshouses). The pupils also provide entertainment in the form of music and drama as well as serving the food and clearing up at this event. In this way, the public benefit directly as elder citizens are celebrated and treated as valued members of the community. Indirectly, the public benefits from many young people becoming aware of the needs and talents of their elders. Such inter-generational activity has significant potential benefits for the future of the community as a whole.

Public Benefit – The Schools

Public benefit may be tangible or intangible, direct or indirect² but must also flow from the charitable objects of the Charity itself. Hence, the three objects of the promotion of education, the relief of those who are sick, in poverty, hardship or distress, and the provision of recreational facilities with a social welfare purpose have been used to assist the reader in gaining some understanding of the breadth and extent of the public benefit provided by the schools of the Bedford Charity. Some activities clearly contribute to more than one charitable object but each has been listed only once under the object to which greatest benefit is delivered. General comments are made under each heading on those factors common to all the establishments followed by a matrix containing those that are specific to the individual schools.

For the purpose of this report the schools have been given the following codes:

BHS	Bedford High School	DAHS	Dame Alice Harpur School
BS	Bedford School	PS	Pilgrims Pre-Preparatory School
BMS	Bedford Modern School	BSSC	Bedford School study centre

¹ The Bedford Charity Strategic Plan p.4 dated 29 June 2004

² "Public Benefit – the legal principles", paragraphs 7 and 10, Charity Commission, January 2005.

Promotion of Education. All of the Charity's schools provide high quality education to their pupils. In addition they offer access to the International Baccalaureate (IB), boarding facilities and single sex education, which are often not available in the maintained sector.

The presence of foreign students at the Charity's schools promotes an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding of diverse cultures and traditions. This produces intangible benefit by increasing the general level of such tolerance within the wider community in the UK and also by raising the knowledge and understanding of the UK in communities abroad.

Additionally, the schools offer means-tested bursary places to families on lower incomes. The bursary scheme has been completely revised over the last two years and changes implemented for applicants during the year that became effective for the 2008/9 academic year. Under the revised system, the income level at which parents are eligible for full-fee support aligns with a definition of poverty used by government. Hence, those whose income is at or below two-thirds of the median national income (currently £15k) are eligible for full-fee support. This reduces on a sliding scale; for example at an assessed income of £35,000 parents may be eligible for an award of up to 50% and at an income greater than £50,000 no support is offered. During 2007/8, 143 pupils held places at the schools of the Bedford Charity and received means tested fees support, of which 22 received full fee remission. The Charity spent £1,038,000 in the year to provide these bursaries. Over the next eight years, the bursary programme will increase to nearly £3.3m and responsibility for funding it will transfer totally to the schools themselves. This bursary provision is a powerful means by which access to the benefits of the Charity's schools is widened.

Parents and guardians often make considerable sacrifices to pay the fees that enable Trustees and staff to provide the high quality education that is the hallmark of the Charity's schools. This relieves the state of the financial burden of educating UK pupils at its senior schools. This tangible, indirect benefit to the public was estimated by Tim Baines, partner at Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP (the Charity's auditors), for 2006 as some £18,425,000, being the cost to the state of educating the 3,768 young people from the UK in the schools that year. The schools do more, however, than assist the public funding of education and the following are some examples of this broader public benefit.

Taking education beyond the schools ...

School	Activity	Public Benefit
BHS	10 local schools use the swimming pool to deliver National Curriculum lessons.	Schools who do not have swimming facilities are able to teach swimming to their pupils
DAHS	Children's University Summer School and Frontiers Gifted and Talented Programme – teachers and support staff involved.	Tutoring of gifted and talented children from state schools
DAHS	Masterclass – children from local schools invited to attend musical masterclass.	Specialist tutoring of musical groups from state schools
DAHS	Sixth Form work in the community – groups of girls helped staff at Ridgeway and Shackleton Lower Schools on a regular basis. This year pupils went to Shackleton Lower School to hear children read. English is a second language for a high proportion of children at this school.	Maintained sector school children helped with their reading lessons and also support given to young people with learning difficulties and their teachers.
BMS	Latin taught for the Frontiers Club (the Children's University)	Broadening of curriculum in local schools
BS	Weblecture – Sensational News in France: the 'Fait	The setting up and co-ordination

School	Activity	Public Benefit
	Drivers' With Sheffield University	of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS	Weblecture – English Literature: War Poetry with Bristol University	The setting up and co-ordination of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS	Weblecture – Science/Biology: ION Channels and Disease with Sheffield University	The setting up and co-ordination of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS	Weblecture – Young People's Rights in Medicine – with Bristol University	The setting up and co-ordination of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS	Weblecture – American Slavery and the Life of Frederick Douglass with Sheffield University	The setting up and co-ordination of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS	Video Conference (VC) Lecture – Student Life with Sheffield University	The setting up and co-ordination of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS	VC Lecture – Critical Thinking with Bristol University	The setting up and co-ordination of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS	VC Lecture – Mediaeval Literature with Bristol University	The setting up and co-ordination of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS	VC Lecture – Astrobiology with Sheffield University	The setting up and co-ordination of online lectures, involving various schools and universities nationally seeking to widen

School	Activity	Public Benefit
		participation in Higher Education and raise aspirations.
BS Prep	Science talks to Castle Lower School, Bedford	Head of Science at BS Preparatory School providing Science talks to Castle Lower School and a demonstration to Year 4.

Making our facilities available to the community

BHS	Provision of sports pitches to local state schools.	Enabling delivery of the sports curriculum in state schools
BHS	Loan of text books for a Latin Club to Goldington Middle School.	Allows extension of curriculum within maintained schools
DAHS	Independent swimming schools use the pool on a weekly basis	Opportunity for members of the local community to learn to swim
DAHS	Football organisations use the Sports Hall on a regular basis	Opportunities for members of the local community to play football together
DAHS	Organisations use the All Weather pitch on a regular basis.	Opportunity for members of the local community to use an all weather facility
BMS	Invited students from Bedford College to join a Year 12 Careers Day	Support local education/college
BMS	Venue for dance examinations	Support of local education
BMS	Venue for Guitar and Music examinations	Support of local education
BMS	Venue for Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration which included involvement of local schools.	Support of local community including enriching and broadening of education
BS	Observatory and Planetarium made widely available throughout the year	Bedford Astronomical Society, Frontiers Club, St Andrews Guides, Ampthill Club, Luton Special School, Harrold Cubs, Apollo Beavers, Barton Rotary, St Andrews Cubs, St Andrews Church, Goldington Middle School and Wilstead Brownies
BSSC	Student from John Bunyan Upper School came to the Study Centre for work experience	Providing work experience and maintaining contacts with local maintained school

Helping others to promote education ...

PS	Provided work experience and training opportunities for adults wishing to work with young children prior to and after recognised courses.	Increased training opportunities for workforce at large
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PS	Provided work experience for Year 10 students from local state schools who had chosen child education as their choice of career.	Increased training opportunities for workforce at large
BHS	Pupils supporting a local primary school's language work	Language support to local children and the community
DAHS	Food in Schools Partnership	Staff from Putnoe Lower and Shackleton were trained by DAHS staff. Provision of Food technology in schools (on going during the academic year 2008)
BMS	Community Service placements in four schools assisting in IT, reading & drama	Helping delivery of Government IT & Literacy strategies
BMS	Use of facilities by Bedford & Kempston Schools Sports Partnership for teacher training	Support to local schools
BS	Acorn Nursery School Classroom Assistant	Assisting classroom teacher in local school
BS	Priory Lower School Classroom Assistant	Teaching German and hearing children read
BS	Assisting at Castle Lower School	Four Year 8 pupils assisting at Castle Lower School
BS	Year 10 Student from Sandy Upper School on two weeks work placement	Pupil from local upper school gaining work experience

Enriching and broadening the experience of education ...

DAHS	Meetings hosted by teachers for local Science Forum, Debating Society, English Society, Film Society	Support of local cultural and educational groups, including many state schools.
BS	Voces Cantabiles Project (Singing masterclasses)	Year 5 pupils working with Newnham Middle School and Biddenham Upper School
BS	Partnership between BS and the Faculty of Education at Bristol University looking at characteristics of underachieving pupils in a number of independent and state schools in Bedfordshire (ELLI Research Project)	BS is working closely with Sharnbrook and St Thomas More Upper School
BS	Teaching assistants at Acorn Nursery as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme	Two boys working as teaching assistants in local nursery school

Relief. The schools also contribute to the charitable object of relief through a variety of activities.

The pupils at the schools develop a strong sense of civic duty and a clear understanding of the value of public service, which forms a direct, intangible benefit to society as a whole, as does the sense of self-discipline and concern for others that is actively encouraged by the schools.

The matrix that follows lists some of the initiatives at the individual schools.

Our pupils and staff working in the community

School	Activity	Public Benefit
PS	The school choir sang at the Almshouse Summer Party.	Providing entertainment for older residents of Bedford
BHS	CAS (Creativity Action & Service) Programme includes pupils working with children, disabled people, older people and carrying out environmental work.	Help given to vulnerable members of society and improvements provided to the quality of the local environment
BHS	Fundraising for various charities.	Over £12,000 raised and donated to charities
DAHS	Harvest Thanksgiving goods from the Junior School delivered to the older people. In the Senior School the harvest goods went to a local charity for their drop in centre, hostels and soup kitchens in Bedford. Residents of the Charity's almshouses join the pupils for our morning coffee served by the pupils.	Support to Bechar Charity and Almshouse residents
DAHS	Fund raising for Bechar (local charity) and clothes collection.	Local charity supported by the school
DAHS	Sixth Formers assisted with Castle Rotary Charity Lunch	Local fund raising event supported by the school
DAHS	Year 11 girls danced at the Indian Fair at John Bunyan Hall in aid of Riverside Children's Ward (Bedford Hospital).	Local charity supported by the school
DAHS	Year 9 girls and staff entertained residents of Lilibet Lodge (with hymn singing) as part of a Council run initiative to encourage children to become involved in community projects.	Pupils and staff working in the local community
BMS	Community Service placements for pupils in two residential homes for older people, two charity shops & Bedford Hospice Day Care Centre.	Support for the community
BMS	Year 10 Youth Action Group raised £50 for the Disabled, £100 for the Ormiston Trust & £200 for other BMS Junior School charities.	Local charities supported
BMS	V Volunteers (formerly Millennium Volunteers)	Several local charities and services are supported by individual commitment under national organisation
BMS	Provision of newsletters for families of prisoners in Bedford Prison.	Support to families of offenders
BMS	Fund raising for charities including Willen Hospice, King's Arms Project, Guide Dogs, Macmillan Cancer Care, Sports Relief, Clic Sargent, Operation Christmas Child, Leukaemia Research and Opportunity International	Charity fund raising

School	Activity	Public Benefit
BMS	Voluntary minibus driving for Mencap by member of BMS teaching staff and assisted by two pupils.	Support to charitable organisation
BS	Mobile Phone Recycling Project.	Raised money for Randall's Farm
BS	Litter pick – volunteers from the school assisted in picking up litter from local public areas.	Picking up litter in local area to help provide a clearer environment
BS	Harvest Festival Boxes.	Home for the older people received food boxes
BS	Construction and planting of a children's play area and garden for a local educational charity as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.	Benefit to local charity
BS	Contribution towards the coaching of Bedford U9 rugby squad.	Benefit to local sports team
BSSC	Assistance to overseas student working in community.	Chinese girl stayed at centre whilst working as a volunteer helper at the Smiley Club holiday play scheme for autistic children
BS	Pupil helping in Age Concern charity shop.	Volunteering in charity shop which assists the local community
BS	Jaffa Orchard Community Café.	Volunteering in local community café
BS	Conservation at Ickwell Bury.	Conservation work
BS	Visiting the older people in the community.	Helping with gardening work for local older people
BS	Rehabilitation Assistant at North Wing Hospital.	Assisting patients recovering from serious brain injuries in local hospital
BSSC	Marston Vale Community Forest – work on sensory garden.	Upkeep of a garden which is open to the public
BS	Assisting in local charity shops.	Pupils have been helping out in the local Age Concern and Cancer Research charities in Bedford
BS	Assisting in the local care home for older people.	Two pupils have been helping out in a local care home for older people

Making our facilities available to the community

BHS	Hosted 24 hour sponsored 'Swimathon'.	Facilitated charity fundraising by members of the community. Promotion of healthy lifestyles
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DAHS	Lending the minibus and staff to transport a team of local doctors (from a local church) and equipment to and from Heathrow Airport. The group were travelling to Romania to train doctors.	Practical support which reduced costs of the trip.
DAHS	Use of facilities by Bedford Borough Council's NACRO and Bedford Police.	Opportunity to run a football league in the area, to help re-introduce former offenders into the local community.
DAHS	Use of school facilities by the King's Arm church.	Opportunity for local church to practice their faith.
BMS	Venue for Macmillan Coffee Morning.	Support to national charity
BSSC	Loan of sports equipment to Brickhill Baptist Church	Provision of equipment for a sports day
BS	Provided transport for a local Church Youth Group to and from Heathrow airport.	The group travelled to Uganda to be part of a project to build wells in the rural South East of the country.

Enriching community life

PS	Harvest Festival donations of food given to local YMCA. Monies collected for local charities and groups.	Increased resources to local disadvantaged groups
PS	Fundraising for Sport Relief, British Heart Foundation, BBC's Children in Need and Poppy Appeal. Specific fund raising for local HomeStart charity.	Charity fund raising
BHS	Hosted the Harpur Trust Almshouse summer party.	Entertainment and social contact for older members of the community. Promotion of greater understanding between the generations
DAHS	£177 raised for Keech Cottage Hospice.	Local charity supported by the school
DAHS	Participation in charity Christmas Fair at Woburn Sculpture Gallery in support of Macmillan Cancer Care.	Support of local charity
DAHS	Money raised by Year 7 (Big Hush) for Macmillan Cancer Research. Total raised was £1,500. According to Macmillan this was the largest of any of the schools in Bedfordshire.	Local charity supported by the school
DAHS	£450 raised by Year 8 to provide a countryside centre for Priors Court School for Autistic Children.	Enabling autistic children to receive the public benefits of working with animals
DAHS	Adult language learners from retirement centre and Cercle Francais came to the final of the Modern Foreign Languages Reading Competition.	Provision of entertainment to members of the community

DAHS	Year 10 & 11 girls involved in face painting at Hills Lower School for their Christmas Fair.	Provision of support to local schools
DAHS	Year 6 tea party for residents of Rays Close.	Provision of entertainment to members of the community
DAHS	Junior School supported Dr Barnados Blue Peter Disc Drive campaign.	Supporting young carers in the community
DAHS	Christmas Tree Festival at St. Paul's Church, Bedford.	Provision of Christmas display to members of the community
DAHS	Chamber Choir concerts at St Paul's Church and St Peter's Church.	Provision of music to members of the community
DAHS	Carol Singers' visits to Almshouses and Bedford Hospital.	Provision of music to older and vulnerable members of the community
DAHS	Pupils contribute to hosting the annual party for residents of Almshouses and join in providing entertainment.	Provision of hospitality and entertainment to older members of the community
DAHS	Party for the visually impaired hosted by pupils of DAHS.	Inclusion of citizens with sight difficulties in social and cultural activities
DAHS	Ridgeway School pupils and staff invited to attend a special performance of The Wizard of Oz.	Inclusion of children with learning difficulties in cultural activity
BMS	Annual Christmas Party hosted for 120 senior citizens.	Social event provided for older people
BMS	Junior School Choir visits to two homes for older people.	Musical and social benefit to older members of the community
BMS	String quartet provided for Keech Cottage Hospice fund raising event.	Supporting local charity
BMS	Twelve social afternoons hosted for older visitors.	Social benefit to older members of the community
BMS	Organising and supporting the Almshouse summer party for older people.	Social benefit to older members of the community
BMS	Band provided for train naming ceremony at Bedford Station.	Enrichment to local community
BMS	Choir and brass ensemble provided for High Sheriff's Service at St Paul's Church.	Cultural support to local community
BS	Easter egg Raffle.	Money raised for local branch of Macmillan Cancer Support

Recreational Facilities with a Social Welfare Purpose. All of the schools actively seek out ways in which their facilities can be put to use for the benefit of the wider community. Society also benefits indirectly from the high level of academic, sporting and artistic achievements attained by the pupils and facilitated by the staff at the schools.

Making our facilities available to the community

School	Activity	Public Benefit
PS	Local state schools given free access and use of Pilgrim's swimming pool.	Swimming facilities made available to state schools, thus encouraging physical activity in the local community
PS	Local BeeZee Bodies group given free access to the whole school and its resources/facilities.	School's resources and facilities used to help promote fitness and healthy eating to local children who have been referred by their GP
PS	Car parking facilities made available during local events held in Bedford Park.	Free parking facilities provided for the community attending these events
BHS	Free swimming and sports hall passes provided to local residents' association.	Promotion of health and well being
DAHS	Hosting a Tri-Dive event in the school pool with DAHS staff for pupils of DAHS, Sharnbrook Upper School and Biddenham Upper School. Facilities (and staff expertise) used by schools in maintained sector.	Maintained sector school pupils and staff benefit from sports facilities
DAHS	Hosting a Tri-Dive event in DAHS pool as part of 'Get kids back into sport' programme.	Local children benefit from sports facilities
DAHS	Hosting Sports Events by PE Staff. Facilities used by schools in maintained sector.	State school pupils and staff benefit from sports facilities
DAHS	Hosting rehearsal for local musical group.	Local community music group benefitting from free provision of rehearsal rooms
DAHS	Concerts at St Paul's Church and St. Peter's Church.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
DAHS	Loan of staging to St. Andrew's Church for concerts.	Supports provision of high quality concerts and recitals at affordable cost to local community.
BMS	Venue for Handbell festival.	Facilities made available to local state schools
BMS	Rehearsal venue for Bedford Town Band.	Local community facility and support to music in Bedford
BMS	Venue for Neighbourhood Forum Meeting.	Support of local community
BMS	Venue for Action Medical Research Charity Fashion Show.	Support to charitable organisation
BMS	Venue for Bedford Council of Faiths Meeting.	Support of local community

School	Activity	Public Benefit
BMS	Venue for annual Bedford Junior Chess Congress.	Support of national and local promotion of intellectual pursuits
BS	Lunchtime concerts.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Piano, String and Woodwind Prize Events.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Brass Ensemble Performance in aid of Leukaemia Research.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Frequent exhibitions: CP Wood Sept-Oct 2007; Gerard Whiteley Nov 2007; Staff and Friends Nov-Dec 2007; Detweiler.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Choral Society Performance of B Minor Mass.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Master class by Stephen Cleobury in the Chapel.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Evening cello concert.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Five concerts in the Bedford Summer School concert series.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Two choral evensongs.	Provision of high quality music to the general public
BS	Hosting Under 11 Six-a-side cricket tournament.	Bedford Town Cricket Club and Beds County Team participated in local tournament
BS	Assisting at Almshouse Summer Party.	Pupils from BS assisting at summer party for older people
BS	Hiring of Gordon Fields at reduced rate for various community sports events.	Used by: Beds Girls Hockey, Newnham Middle School, S King Sport Development, BPR Paul Mason, Beds YFC, Bedford Town Colts, Wooton Rangers, Valerios, BP Rangers Under 13's, Beds LTA, Cranfield United

School	Activity	Public Benefit
BS	The use of the school's facilities for free for various events.	Howard Valentine, Acorns, Marlins, parents Guild, Bedford Bulls, Mrs Laurence Fencing, Putnoe Scouts, BTCC, St Andrews Prize Giving, National Probation Service, Rare Theatre, Mr Brough, Cran Canoe, BSPG (Ball), Harrold Junior Cricket Club, Rotary Swimathon, Hills Lower School (Theatre), Colmworth Scouts, C Callow Rowing Dills, Beds Scouts Parade, Philharmonia Hire of Music School,

Supporting sport, recreation and the arts in the community

PS	Rushden & Diamonds Football Club were given free access to the school playing field for their football lessons thus allowing them to offer lower joining costs for participants.	Access to school outdoor facilities
BMS	Venue for two National Schools Badminton Tournaments.	Support of sport in the community
BMS	Use of cricket facilities for Bedford County Cricket Club – Minor Counties Match.	Support of sport in the community
BMS	Venue for Bedfordshire County Table Tennis Tournament.	Support of sport in the community
BMS	Use of All-Weather Facility by local middle school for training purposes.	Support of sport to local school
BMS	Use of cricket facilities by Bedfordshire Young Cricketers U13's.	Support of sport in the local community
BMS	Venue for three Beds and District 7-a-side football tournaments.	Support of sport in the community
BMS	Hosted School's Year 8 Cricket Day.	Support of sport in the local community
BSSC	Seed collecting for the Community Tree Trust.	Support for Community Tree Trust in their community projects
BS	Selling rugby programmes.	Contributions made to raffle at Age Concern Charity Shop
BS	Brass Ensemble played at Tesco.	Entertainment and contribution of £750 made to local branch of Leukaemia Research