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Ark Extended Pilot of CanTeam Impact Report

24/04/2024



Ark Burlington Danes
Academy



KING SOLOMON
ACADEMY



RAHEEM
STERLING
FOUNDATION



REUBEN FOUNDATION



Executive Summary

[CanTeam](#) is an after school social dining initiative co-designed with young people that encourages students and their families to enjoy nutritious, delicious and diverse foods together.

Launched by [Future Foundations](#) in June 2023, CanTeam aims to embed a transformative food culture within schools, enabling young people to learn and thrive.

Over the first 6 months of the initiative CanTeam was funded and supported by the [Big Change Big Education Challenge](#) to develop the concept, consult beneficiaries and test the idea.

With the support of funds secured by [Ark](#) from [The Reuben Foundation](#) and the [Raheem Sterling Foundation](#) we piloted the launch of weekly CanTeam events at two schools; Ark [King Solomon Academy](#) and Ark [Burlington Danes Academy](#) over 8 weeks from w/c 15th January to w/c 4th March 2024, with a break for half term.

With over 760 young people, parents/carers and teachers attending and 98 percent keen to see more events at their school, there is a clear demand and need that CanTeam is responding to.

CanTeam has quickly become part of both school communities, with attendees returning week-on-week, and sharing positive feedback about their experience. Students were given training, mentoring and support by Future Foundations to volunteer at the events taking on key roles in making the events a success for all involved.

The aim was to transform school canteens into welcoming community hubs. This report shares key insights from attendees, the student volunteers, the catering teams and lead teachers. We hope you enjoy reading.



[Jonathan Harper](#)
CEO Future Foundations
Founder of CanTeam



Partner context

Ark is an education charity that works to make sure that all children, regardless of their background, have access to a great education and real choices in life.

We support 30,000 children directly across 39 schools. Our schools are in areas where we know we can make the biggest difference:

- Ark's students are nearly twice as likely to be eligible for free school meals than students nationally (42 v 24 percent).
- Ninety percent of Ark schools are in areas with above average deprivation.

Our schools are at the forefront of the cost-of-living crisis. Many of them are stepping in to provide crisis support for the students and communities they serve, despite working with already stretched budgets.

We are delighted to be piloting community meals with Future Foundation's CanTeam initiative, making a tangible difference to both the students and the communities we serve.

We believe that the power of schools goes well beyond education. Schools are uniquely placed to bring people together to serve communities. Our community pilots are partnering with parents and organisations, such as Future Foundations, to help solve the pressing social challenges we face.

We are so grateful for the continued support of the Reuben Foundation and the Raheem Sterling Foundation for making this possible. Thanks to their funding, we have been able to run this pilot at no cost to our schools.

This report demonstrates the impact that the meals have had: well beyond providing food at a time of need, but also re-engaging parents and communities at a time when it is most needed.

We look forward to what more we can do together as we seek to scale this work to more schools in the future.



Holly Mumford
Head of Philanthropy
& Development, Ark



Top Stats

888
attendees

98%
of attendees said
Yes or Maybe to more
CanTeam events

399 Young People 279 Parents/Carers

67 Teachers 24 Guests

14 Events 2 Schools

258 Student Volunteering Hours



BDA Pilot Overview

Working with Ark Burlington Danes Academy, Future Foundations launched an extended pilot of CanTeam events.

Student volunteers from Year 7, 12 and 13 supported the decoration of the canteen, organised activities each week for the attendees and delivered a welcome talk.

- 🍏 7 weekly events on Wednesdays
- 🍏 406 young people, family members, teachers and guests attended in total
- 🍏 Catering led by in-house school catering team
- 🍏 Rating of 4.8/5 for our pilots from participants

FF Events Director
Juliette Noske

FF Volunteer:
Ashley Ault



Lead Teacher
Johnoi Josephs

Support Teacher
Frankie Osborn



Catering Head Chef
Hemant Kalmodekar



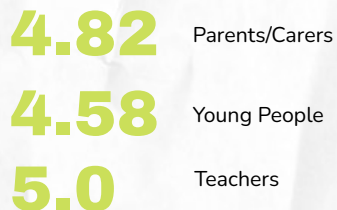
BDA CanTeam Attendee Feedback



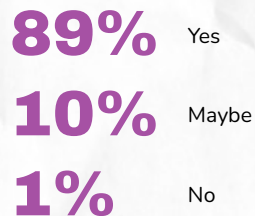
What attendees enjoyed most:

- **Delicious Food:** Attendees praised the quality of the food, emphasising its taste.
- **Warm Atmosphere:** The friendly and welcoming atmosphere created a positive experience.
- **Community Engagement:** The events allowed people to connect and feel part of the school community.
- **Interaction and Conversations:** Attendees appreciated the opportunity to chat with other parents, teachers, and volunteers.
- **Positive Attitude:** The positive attitude of organisers, cooks, and young participants left a lasting impression.

How would you rate your overall CanTeam experience? Out of 5



Would you like us to run more CanTeam events?



Suggestions for improvements:

- **Beverage Options:** Offer a variety of hot drinks and flavored squash.
- **Food Variety and Quality:** Expand the menu and introduce more diverse desserts.
- **Engagement and Entertainment:** Include more interactive games, more music, and activities for children.
- **Logistics and Communication:** Communicate clear arrival times, improve accessibility at the gate and signage, and consider seating arrangements to encourage more new connections.
- **Review timing:** Explore offering closer to end of day (especially in Winter when it's dark) or align with other events such as after school clubs and parents evenings.



Feedback from BDA attendees

“

Meeting people, connecting with the school and eating very nice meals.

Also, as a working mum I love having a container with a good meal for the next day.

“

The food tasted really good, but the best for me was the warm and welcoming reception and engagement from the organisers and cooks.

“

Lovely food. Friendly cooks and staff. Impressive positive attitude from young people in this event who take part. Thank you.

“

The nice food and kind staff.

“

The food and being around the community. Very welcoming volunteers.

“

The atmosphere! Lovely community spirit from students, parents and volunteers.

“

It is always nice to be a part of this event. Great music, nice community vibe.



Feedback from BDA student volunteers

“

I have gotten closer to the community and learnt how to be a leader, properly manage my time and be a team player. Despite only joining CanTeam last week I feel more confident.

Ikram, Year 12

“

I learnt the pleasure in honest community work and how it genuinely feels good to help others and serve food to the community, bringing us together over some comfort food.

Ayman, Year 12

“

Through Volunteering with Canteam I've developed a stronger skill in networking and organisation skills. Also it has allowed me to explore the community in a family fashion through the dinners.

Emmanuel, Year 12

“

What I've learned through volunteering with CanTeam is that it's a great way to give back to the community and make a positive impact. It's been such a rewarding experience.

I have learned that it has a significant impact on the community. The act of providing meals not only nourishes individuals but also demonstrates care and value. The gratitude expressed by community members is truly heartening and something I will never forget.

Ryan, Year 12

“

During my time helping at my school's CanTeam, I gained invaluable skills and experiences that have shaped me both personally and professionally. From setting up decorations to occasionally joining in with karaoke, I learned the importance of teamwork, time management, and adaptability.

Moreover, witnessing the positive impact our efforts had on the community was incredibly rewarding. Looking ahead, I aspire to see CanTeam continue to grow and evolve, reaching even more individuals in need and fostering a stronger sense of unity within our school and external community.

Elisa, Year 12





KSA Pilot Overview

Working with Ark King Solomon Academy, Future Foundations launched an extended pilot of CanTeam events.

Student volunteers from Year 12 and 13 supported the decoration of the canteen, organised activities each week for the children and delivered a welcome talk to attendees.

🍏 7 weekly events on Mondays

🍏 482 young people, family members, teachers and guests

🍏 Catering by [Accent Catering Ltd](#)

🍏 Rating of 4.7/5 for our pilots from participants

Lead Teachers

Gabby Woolf
Nick Walters

Events Director

Patrick Azille



Student Volunteers



Accent Catering



KSA Attendee Feedback

- **Food:** It was clear from the feedback that young people and families enjoyed interacting over meals. Food helped create a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- **Socialising:** Meeting new parents, speaking with teachers, and connecting with other families in the school were valuable opportunities.
- **Atmosphere and Music:** The overall atmosphere, combined with music, made the events enjoyable.
- **Specific Highlights:** The quizzes and games led by sixth formers and coloring activities. These unique elements added to the overall experience allowing parents to relax.
- **Community Spirit:** The sense of community spirit was evident.

How would you rate your overall CanTeam experience?

Out of 5

4.72 Parents/Carers

4.37 Young People

4.5 Teachers

Would you like us to run more CanTeam events?

86% Yes

11% Maybe

3% No



Feedback from KSA attendees



“

The food is so nice and delicious. Also the environment is amazing.

“

The food was delicious (5 stars - not even Nando's could beat this meal!) Also, connecting with other parents and children having fun.

“

Food and music. The welcoming team. Saving us time which we spent with our kids

“

Nice food, music good fun for kids especially quiz. More quizzes pls!

“

The music, the food, how warm and welcoming everyone has been

“

Speeches including recognition of volunteers, helpers and staff. Food, colouring and entertainment

“

An opportunity to meet other parents and speak to teachers without being rushed. Food was delicious!

Feedback from KSA student volunteers

“

Organising an event requires time to prepare and experience that I was happy to have gained throughout. Also, learned the importance of advertising when organising an event.

Nathan, Year 13

“

That things will always have to be updated and developed to suit the community's needs. The first week wasn't great but we kept getting better.

Al, Year 13

“

I have learnt that integration of community is essential to development in terms of happiness and feeling a sense of belonging. I learnt patience and leadership as well as teamwork, working alongside by fellow year 12s. It was a fun experience and I think it had a positive impact on my school.

Ijeoma, Year 12





Articles & Blogs

“

A feature of the event is the near carnival atmosphere in the canteen, a tone set by the enthusiastic student volunteers dressed in canary yellow CanTeam branded t-shirts and aprons who register attendees at the door.

Nick Hughes, Food Writer & Journalist, Foodprint

[Click here](#) to read published article

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The schools turning canteens into community hubs



“

My organisational skills have been developed through setting up the room, also my public speaking skills have enhanced through giving a speech before the meal.

Emmanuel, student volunteer, Burlington Danes Academy

[Click here](#) to read Emmanuel's blog 'Nourishing Connections'

“

My experience with CanTeam has been a journey of self-discovery. I have a newfound passion for volunteering, realizing the profound impact that small acts of kindness can have on individuals and communities alike.

Rayan, student volunteer, Burlington Danes Academy

[Click here](#) to read Rayan's blog 'Beyond Meals'

“

It is fantastic to see so many happy, smiling faces and to see old and young gathering over good food to chat. Word of mouth has played its part and we have seen the dining hall full to capacity each Monday evening, which is so rewarding to see. It's why I go to work. I absolutely love how a simple idea can enhance a school community and bring benefits to many.”

Ian Harman, Operations Manager, Accent Catering

Source: Accent Catering Press Release

Challenges & Opportunities

| Challenges | Strategies implemented in pilot to overcome challenge | Further testing and piloting required |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Limited Capacity of Teachers and Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FF provided staff with training and template marketing materials. • FF provided an onsite Events Director. • FF provided training to student volunteers. • FF provided volunteers each week to support events. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore providing additional training to student volunteers • Create a 'parent' volunteer role and ensure more than one member of staff appointed. • FF to provide central app for registration and event management. • FF to provide additional support and investment in marketing. • Integrate student training and volunteering into school timetable enrichment. • Test a stipend role for staff who lead initiative. • Test FF taking on bigger role onsite or partnering with after school club provision who provide pastoral care. |
| 2. Negative Perceptions of School Meals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the menus and themes. • Share the positive feedback on the food and photos of the food and families enjoying the food. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host theme days and tasting events to showcase the quality of meals and promote the wider benefits of attending. • Run events alongside other events e.g. parents evenings. |
| 3. Effective Marketing and Engagement within School communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FF provided template poster, event registration and promotional content to share with school community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness through assemblies, newsletters, and ambassador roles. • Develop a marketing strategy with student input to enhance reach. • Invite special guests to attend who will raise profile. |
| 4. Addressing Inclusivity and Stigma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event marketing focused on CanTeam. • Involvement of student volunteers. • Sharing photos and feedback from previous events. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot a discreet pay-what-you-can system and engage community from the start. • Focus marketing on social dining and delicious food rather than alleviating food poverty. |
| 5. Engaging hard to reach families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with PTA on messaging. • Run alongside other events e.g. parents evening. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted initiatives which may combine an after school activity with CanTeam. |

Conclusion

“98% of attendees said Yes or Maybe to having more CanTeam events at their school & 88% said Yes!”



The positive feedback from attendees and return of guests week-after-week demonstrated a strong demand for CanTeam despite a range of factors: not only was there a very quick turnaround to launch the initiative, but it was also the first extended CanTeam pilot and the first time CanTeam has run in these schools.

The impact on the student volunteers was evident. They took ownership, and feedback from attendees and guests, including a visiting journalist, identified their input as the 'magic element' of the programme. There are clear benefits from further developing and embracing the role that students can play in leading CanTeam.

We see real potential to build on these pilots by testing a longer lead time and delivering additional training for the student leaders taking their role to the next level and alleviating pressure on teachers.

We are keen to make the events more accessible and inclusive by aligning with after school clubs and by opening up to feeder schools and the wider community for special events such as Christmas. This would provide new opportunities for student volunteers and deepen the impact on local communities.

We believe there is a need for further testing in how to make the intervention less reliant on teachers and are working with our lead teachers to explore ways to do this to maximise benefits within the school and local community.

CanTeam background & future plans

Future Foundations mission is to equip all young people to thrive. Healthy and nutritious food is fundamental to the health, wellbeing and educational outcomes of young people.

Our CanTeam vision is a society where every young person and their family can access available, affordable and appealing food; enabling them to learn and thrive. Through the regular provision of healthy nutritious food at social dining events after school, we are on a mission to establish more CanTeam hubs than McDonalds restaurants across the UK by 2030.

We are delighted to share that with Ark's support CanTeam is a winner of the Big Education Challenge and with the support of Big Change we will be evaluating the wider benefits of CanTeam as we test further extended pilots at schools in 2024-25. The learning from these extended pilots, our 2023 pilots and survey are being used to inform our plans to further piloting in 2024-25.

We could not have delivered this extended pilot without the support of Ark and the funds from the Raheem Sterling Foundation and the Reuben Foundation to enable us to offer all meals at no cost to families for an extended period. We are grateful to the schools, caterers, Ark and the funders for their incredible support.

We are excited to continue developing CanTeam and to see the impact we can have on the health and wellbeing of young people and their families throughout the UK. We invite you to join us in making our vision and mission a reality. Together we can create a brighter future for all.



“We’re on a mission to establish more CanTeam hubs than McDonalds restaurants across the UK by 2030.”

The logo for CANTTEAM, where each letter is a different color: C (green), A (yellow), N (purple), T (blue), E (red), A (orange), M (red).

LET'S EAT & THRIVE TOGETHER

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**Thank you for reading our
Ark CanTeam Pilot Impact Report**

Visit our website to find out more:

www.canteam.org

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