

Knowledge is Power

Top Class Tuition’s Two/Zero journey

The Directors of Top Class Tuition in Blackpool share how the support their social enterprise received has helped their business and hundreds of children impacted by the pandemic:

One of the biggest impacts of Covid-19 has been on children’s education after missing out on months of learning within school. A Blackpool-based social enterprise is now hoping to help hundreds of local pupils catch up with their studies.

Top Class Tuition (TCT) provide cost effective English tuition and school-based interventions to support parents and schools to increase the life chances of children. Teachers and Company Directors Susan Frain and Katherine Atha (pictured) took part in the Two/Zero Social Enterprise programme funded by Lancashire County Council, to help mission-driven businesses expand. The original programme was about scaling up these social enterprises – then Covid hit and everything changed.



With a new focus on Resilience and Sustainability, Social enterprise specialists Selnet adapted the original programme to provide online masterclasses and business mentor support, based on the needs of each business.

When lock-down hit, we knew the gap in attainment for disadvantaged children was only going to grow.

Early in lock-down, TCT wrote and designed an 8-page leaflet with thought-provoking activities and exercises for pupils to work on at home; 2000 copies were circulated to homes across Blackpool through partner organisations including the local food bank run by HIS Provision.

Looking ahead, TCT wanted to bid into the National Tutoring Programme to help disadvantaged pupils. They were ideally placed to deliver the work, but had never undertaken such a large procurement exercise and needed expert support. The teachers’ Two/Zero business mentor guided them through the process to submit a strong application. Director Susan Frain said;

“At first, we thought the contract would be out of our reach; a national procurement exercise is an extremely complex process. Our mentor encouraged us to submit a bid, knowing we had the ability to deliver.

Having the advice and support of someone who was familiar with our business and our mission, giving us the benefit of his tendering and procurement experience was so valuable. We spent several hours on the phone working through the terminology and how to answer the various questions.

“Having worked through this process, we now feel that we have the skills and confidence to apply for future contracts as they arise and help more school pupils to reach their true potential in life.”

Ends



Editors notes

Selnet – The Social Enterprise Lancashire Network

Selnet is the recognised lead for social enterprise in Lancashire. We believe that social enterprise can transform lives and change the world. If you are trading for a social or environmental purpose, we can support you to start up, develop, connect and grow.



Social Enterprise Lancashire Network

We help Lancashire's social entrepreneurs achieve their ambitions, respond to challenges, tackle inequalities and empower local communities. We are a social enterprise, run by our members to meet the needs of our members. We represent Lancashire's social business interests at national, regional and local levels through our wide network of stakeholders and partners.

As a member of Selnet organisations will join like-minded business people to share ideas, network, grow and develop, find local connections and help open your business up to new markets. Through our communications channels, they receive up to date sector news, funding information, events and training updates and have a platform to promote social businesses.

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Top Class Tuition CIC

We are a social enterprise CIC supporting pupils across Blackpool, Fylde and Lancashire by providing cost effective, experienced and expert English Language and Literature tuition. We cater for a broad range of pupils, ranging across the key stages, from KS2-KS5. We have expert knowledge of the full range of examination boards and our tutoring services include all of the key elements on which pupils are tested during SATs and GCSEs.



TOP CLASS
TUITION

The services we provide include intensive revision sessions based on the examination requirements, through one to one and small group sessions.

Not only are we fully qualified English teachers with outstanding subject knowledge, we have experience working in Secondary Schools within a range of roles from Literacy Co-ordinators to Head of English. We also boast the experience of being current GCSE examiners and have secure and up to date knowledge of the new curriculum; this will enable our pupils to have a clear understanding of how to achieve the top grades they require to access Further Education, Colleges and develop fundamental skills for their chosen career paths.

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