

# HUMAN VALUES FOUNDATION



## Autumn Newsletter



No. 34 - November 2013

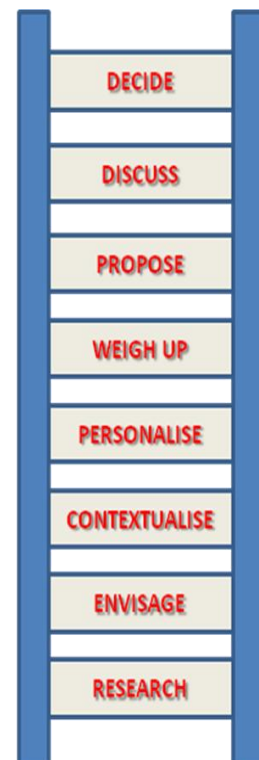
### HOME NEWS

Once a month, Rosemary Dewan, our CEO, sends an inspirational, values-themed article to schools under the [www.InnovateMySchool.com](http://www.InnovateMySchool.com) umbrella. Most are read at least 600 times and in July the editor advised her that she holds the record for an article being tweeted by readers! Here is an extract from one of those articles:

#### **EIGHT STEPS UP A VALUES-BASED DECISION-MAKING LADDER**

*Below are eight practical and engaging decision-making steps that can be tailored to suit the experience of children and young people. When considering some of the serious topics in relation to spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development or during personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, they can be followed in order to explore, consider and evaluate alternatives, all the while drawing on learners' own personalities, strengths and interests as they strive to arrive at sound, appropriate, optimum decisions that reflect aims, values and priorities that are important to themselves and others.*

1. **Research facts** - consider the past, the present and the future
2. **Explore options and possible outcomes** - look at positives and negatives
3. **Examine different contexts** - home, school, local, national, global, etc
4. **Review** - personal and other stakeholders' hopes, fears, goals, views, etc
5. **Weigh up relevant factors** - values, attitudes, beliefs, traditions, etc
6. **Formulate decision alternatives** - identify the key factors of each one
7. **Discuss alternatives** - re-evaluating earlier information if need be
8. **Decide** - and take ownership of your final choices.



In September there was a discussion about values on Radio Sussex and Radio Surrey. Rosemary rang in and was interviewed for a short time on air, answering questions on values and the Foundation's work. Visits to the website rose that day!

## **OVERSEAS NEWS**

### **A brand new school in Nigeria**

In April 2012 while The Embodiments of Love Academy was being constructed in a rural part of Nigeria, it was given a copy of EHV, thanks to someone's kindness. The school opened in October 2012 with 45 village children from very poor socio-economic backgrounds. Now with 87 pupils and celebrating their first anniversary, in October the extremely appreciative head sent us a copy of their inspiring newsletter, which began with:

*The solution to hunger and thirst is not the provision of food and water.  
Wealth and accumulation of money cannot solve the problem of poverty.  
Mere bookish knowledge does not make a person educated.*

*Today, educational institutions produce "Intellectuals without hearts".  
Religious bodies are filled with "Pastors without heads".  
Our society is full of "Graduates without hands".*

*Humanity devoid of human values - This is the root of man's problems.*

### **Blending values education with teaching English in Latvia**

In August 2012 we received an order for all our EHV and SEE products for a school in Latvia where the person teaching English was keen to also promote values education. Our programmes contain an abundance of stories, songs, quotations, discussion points, ideas for quiet reflection and engaging activities to reinforce learning.

This year the teacher translated one module into Latvian and presented it at a children's summer camp. The youngsters staged the drama "Seven Blind Men and the Elephant" and the teacher wrote to us recently to say, "*IT WAS A SUCCESS! Children absolutely enjoyed every minute of the lesson! I was happy too, because I could concentrate on the MESSAGE, not the form.*" Buoyed up by this, in her school, the teacher plans to hold a values lesson once a fortnight in Latvian and as she will continue to work with the summer camp children (aged 4 to 14) who are in a famous Latvian singing group called "Knīpas & Knauki", she hopes that they will much enjoy learning, singing and benefitting from the values songs in our EHV and SEE programmes.

## **OUR MISSION**

It is good to remind ourselves from time to time what we are trying to do and ask whether we are achieving that objective. The Human Values Foundation's mission is to develop, promote and encourage an uplifting, values-based, 21<sup>st</sup>-century education process, benefitting particularly young people, teachers and those who look after children.

To this end we provide universal resources – **EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES** ("EHV" for ages 4 to 12) and **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EDUCATION** ("SEE" for ages 12 to 14 and over) - that foster lasting, life-enriching values, which contribute to an integrated ethical, moral, emotional, social and spiritual education, enabling all young people to fulfil their potential both during their school careers and beyond.

## **DO THE HVF'S ACTIVITIES ADDRESS A GENUINE NEED?**

In September 2013 the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published recommendations for local authorities and partner organisations on “social and emotional wellbeing for children and young people”. The briefing opened with the importance of focusing on this topic because social and emotional wellbeing creates the foundations for healthy behaviours and educational attainment and also helps prevent very costly behavioural and mental health problems.

Acknowledging that social and emotional wellbeing is influenced by a range of factors, from individual make-up and family background to the community within which people live and society at large, it explained that social and emotional wellbeing provides personal competencies (such as emotional resilience, self-esteem and interpersonal skills) that help to protect against risks relating to social disadvantage, family disruption and other life adversities and that such competencies provide building blocks for personal development, which will enable children and young people to take advantage of life chances.

It went on to say that poor social, emotional and psychological health predicts a range of negative outcomes in adolescence and adulthood and that children suffering like this are more likely to leave school with no qualifications, become teenage parents, experience relationship or marital problems and experience unemployment in adulthood.

Our values education programmes are conducive to children valuing learning and support the development of social and emotional skills, building self-esteem and self-efficacy, while also helping to reduce bullying behaviour.

NICE stated that school-based social and emotional learning, to help reduce behavioural problems and improve education performance, can provide a good return on investment, through reducing conduct problems and crime-related impacts. It reported that conduct problems are very common in childhood and that potential long-term savings from each case prevented are estimated to be £75,000 for mild- and £150,000 for severe-conduct problems.

It seems that nearly half of young people report being bullied at age 14 years, resulting in lower educational attainment. In our effort to try and reduce bullying, we have made our ‘SEE’ Anti-bullying module and our ‘EHV’ Kindness module freely downloadable on sites such as Times Education Supplement (TES) Online.

## **CAN WE DEMONSTRATE RESULTS OF WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED?**

Earlier this year we analysed the Department for Education’s performance tables for primary schools in England to ascertain the extent to which there has been a difference in schools that have bought our EHV programme. Starting from purchases during the 2004/2005 academic year and working on data up to 2008/2009 and using the academic performance yardstick favoured by the Government, we found that over a 5-year period, schools in England that bought EHV performed significantly better than the national average: the “EHV schools” improved by 5.5% compared with the national average of 4.4% over the same period.

One aspect of the inspection of schools is to determine the extent to which parents are being engaged in their children’s education. Recently, on receiving a copy of EHV, the school’s Family Engagement Officer wrote to say, “*Thanks so much; this will be invaluable to our staff*”.

NICE reported that aggressive behaviour at the age of 8 years is a predictor of criminal behaviour, arrests, convictions, traffic offences, spouse abuse and punitive treatment of their own children. While it remains difficult to demonstrate the precise impact from our programmes, feedback from users indicates that they add value in three key areas:

1. **EDUCATIONAL VALUE** – advancing best practices in all types of schools, with teachers and others guiding and mentoring children applying a solution-focused approach that helps to bring out the very best in young people so that they can realise their true potential, whatever their starting points
2. **SOCIAL VALUE** – nourishing the fabric of society by enabling young citizens to develop positive mindsets, personal qualities and essential skill sets that empower them so that their principled, informed thinking, decision-making and behaviour enriches their school careers and home life and enables them to make successful transitions into adulthood
3. **FINANCIAL VALUE** – helping, particularly during these austere times, to equip young people with the attributes required to flourish in a changing economy and potentially reducing the astronomical amounts of public money spent on remedial work arising from children’s educational underachievement, exclusions, poor mental health, youth crime, growing up in families with multiple problems and various other risk factors.

### **ARE WE AMBITIOUS TO SOLVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS?**

*“It has long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.” Leonardo Da Vinci*

Values help to establish principles, standards and reference points and are therefore important for children, whoever they are and whether or not they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) or are disadvantaged pupils, perhaps with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD).

Since our last newsletter and the beginning of the Summer term, another 65 schools have acquired a copy of our values education programmes. This means that over 13,000 more children are likely to be benefitting from an enriched education. As EHV and SEE gain deeper and wider penetration year on year, the effects of their implementation have the potential to make lasting differences for several thousands of young people - and other stakeholders.

As Robert Kennedy said, *“The gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages; the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage; neither our wisdom nor our learning; neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country; it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.”*

We are ambitious to provide high quality resources that secure continuous improvements in learners’ educational attainments, along with their social and emotional competencies, so as to enable them to lead happy, worthwhile, meaningful lives and to support others to do so.

## DONATIONS

We are enormously grateful to all those who appreciate what we are doing to bring about positive changes in young lives and who have generously supported the Foundation during the past few months, especially considering the current climate of financial austerity.

Some of our recent kind donors wish to remain anonymous but along with them, we would like to express our thanks to the trustees of The 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust, The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation, The B-CH 1971 Charitable Trust, the Dame Violet Wills Will Trust, the Harapan Trust, The Helianthus Charitable Trust, The Lynn Foundation, The Sir James Roll Charitable Trust, The Syder Foundation and The Tony Metherell Charitable Trust and to Christopher Barnes, the family of John and Mary Bingham, Chris Caine, Alyson Carter, Mike David, Terence Day, Helen Eagan, Bob and Mary Greenhead, Tim Lipscomb, Jackie Mansbridge, Anthony and Nicole O'Flaherty, Mike Roberts, Penelope Sapiro, Tonia Silk, Geoffrey and Ann Steinberg, Polly Stone, and Peter and Judy Woods.

**Texting facility** - Donations can easily be made simply by texting the number **70070 with the following message: VALU21** (our identifying code) and **then a space** followed by the **£** sign and an amount, for example you can text: **VALU21 £10 (or £15 or £20** – depending upon the amount you wish to donate).

### Donations without spending a penny

Here is a great way of donating at no cost and helping the Foundation. By going to [www.givingabit.com](http://www.givingabit.com) and just asking for quotations can result in a donation to the HVF. Also there are thousands of discount codes for favourite companies like John Lewis, Debenhams and Sainsbury's etc.

Another painless way of donating is by using the search engine [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com), which earns the Foundation money when it conducts searches. You can see from their website how quickly the donations can build up.

### E-mail addresses

In order to preserve our precious resources, we would very much like to send you our newsletters by e-mail. If you are able to help us in this way, do contact Helen Colbeck via [helen\\_colbeck@hotmail.com](mailto:helen_colbeck@hotmail.com).

## POINTS TO PONDER

This is an extract from "A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles" by Marianne Williamson:

*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."*

## “ONE YOUNG WORLD” BEACONS OF LIGHT


In 2009 a charity called [One Young World](#) was established by Kate Robertson and David Jones, two people already with distinguished careers in advertising and marketing. The aim was to gather together exceptional young people aged between 18 and 30 from all over the world, enabling them to make lasting connections to create positive change. Every year they hold a summit, the most recent being staged in Johannesburg in early October. According to the organisers, it was the single, biggest, youth-dominated event outside the Olympic Games!

A star-studded group of global leaders from sectors including business, politics, fashion, science and sport gave their time and shared their experience with the young, socially-committed delegates, who have already demonstrated their own fine leadership qualities. The prominent figures included Sir Richard Branson, Kofi Annan, Boris Becker, the Global Chief Executive of Barclays, Sir Bob Geldorf, to name but a few. They acted as 'Counsellors' at the event, talking with and supporting the 1,300 young aspirants from 190 countries as they energetically exchanged ideas on how to address solutions to challenges that affect all of us, including education, global business, human rights, sustainable development and transparency.

Reports indicate that this was an inspirational, positive and uplifting gathering, showcasing the cream of the world's young people, all working with passion and conviction towards a more positive, sustainable and constructive future for everyone.

### AND FINALLY ...

A huge **THANK YOU** for your part in supporting the Human Values Foundation and our endeavours to help bring about an enriched and happier society. If you have any comments or suggestions, do let us know about them by contacting:

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We hope you have a happy and peaceful winter, with Seasons Greetings and very best wishes from the Human Values Foundation team.

*Patron: Michael Morpurgo, OBE, FKC, AKC*

*Education Advisor: Dr Anthony Seldon, MA, PhD, FRSA, MBA, FRHisS*