



First **Star** Academies **UK**

Are the pathway to university and
careers through:

Academic support

Life skills development

Carer engagement

Mentor support

Help us change the odds for and
increase the opportunities for
Looked-after Young People

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Our Mission

First Star improves the lives of Looked-after Children and Young People by partnering with virtual school heads, schools and designated teachers, social services and carers, universities, and local authorities to ensure looked-after young people have the academic, life skills, and adult support needed to successfully transition to higher education and adulthood.

We pursue our mission through innovative university-preparatory programmes, providing professional assistance to stakeholders, and advocating for policy change.

Founded in 2017 by



Peter Samuelson

President, Samuelson
Productions.
First Star President and
Co-Founder.
First Star Academies UK
Chair and Founder

Looked-after Children's outcomes

Facts

There is no single solution or formula that will work for all of our Looked-after Children; however, the First Star Academies offer an innovative and holistic model that emphasises and supports education while promoting meaningful connections as our young people transition into adulthood.

38.6% of Looked-after Children who experience one placement achieve 5+ A- C GCSEs (grade 5 or above) compared to 29.8% who experience two placements, falling to 14.5% who experience 3 or more placements*

Looked-after Children experience higher levels of school exclusion than their peers because schools do not necessarily have the capacity to support young people affected by trauma, and these young people do not have enough adults to effectively advocate for them in such circumstances

- Nearly 20% of care leavers felt that they had no one to turn to for help;
- The Children and Social Work Act (2017) now gives care leavers a personal advisor until they are 25;
- Over 30% of care leavers misuse alcohol or other drugs within a year of leaving care;
- Many care leavers feel alone and experience loneliness, depression, anxiety and poor emotional health and well-being;
- 42% of care leavers feel ready to live independently when they leave care.

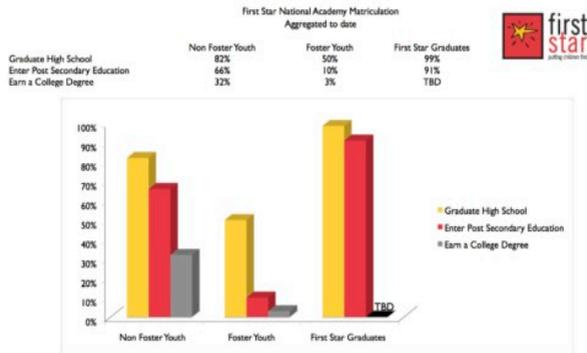
Costs of child abuse and neglect to the UK

£

- £8,401,660,000 lifetime cost for current 94,000 Looked-after Children
- £2.5 billion (estimated minimum) annual cost of child sexual abuse
- £4 billion annual cost of Looked-after Children (children's services)
- £267,148,144 cost to criminal justice system (2015) of child maltreatment cases

What we do

First Star Academies in USA demonstrate the programme impact



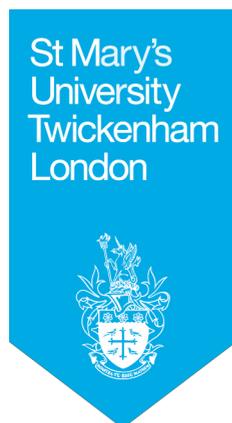
Of First Star Academy Graduates 51% have been admitted to four year universities and 40% have been admitted to two year colleges.

Data Sources:
 National Center for Education Statistics, available at <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-high-school-graduation-rate-hits-new-record-high-0> and www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipeds_current_tables.asp
 Foster Care by the Numbers, Casey Family Programs, Sept. 2011, available at http://www.casey.org/media/MediaKit_FosterCareByTheNumbers.pdf
 First Star Statistics

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Overview of Programme

St Mary's First Star Academy



First Star Academies UK inaugural Academy is the St Mary's First Star Academy. The Academy is set within the Institute of Education at St Mary's University, Twickenham whose tradition of excellence in education provides an ideal setting for our pilot academy.

The main focus of First Star St Mary's Academy is a 4-week residential academy taking place on the St Mary's University main campus. In addition to the summer academy, there are monthly Saturday academies throughout the rest of the year. Academy students live on campus in the halls of residence for the duration of the summer academy and are immersed in university life. The Students' first summer academy takes place between years 9 and 10, and they remain with us for the next 4 years, throughout GCSE and A-level / post 16 education.

The first cohort of Academy students joined St Mary's in 2017 and a new cohort will start in the summer of 2019.

Who we are

Directors



Marta Drummond
Strategic Consultant

Stuart Irvine
Commercial, Operations &
Project Director

Rt. Hon. Jenny Willott, OBE
Director of Enterprise and
Innovation, St Mary's University

Contact Us

Dr Lorna Goodwin: Executive Director

- Phone: 07706908079
- Email: lorna.goodwin@firststaruk.org
- Web: www.firststaruk.org

