



Registered Charity No. 1156821

**Trustees' annual report
for the period to 31 March 2015**

Overview of the year 2014-15

The Trustees present the first annual report of The Linacre Institute, which was registered as a charity on 28 April 2014.

The Institute's first year was more successful than its trustees could reasonably have hoped for. In April 2014 they proposed a small pilot to run over that summer, with the aim of helping students in deprived northern areas reach leading universities. By December, 70% of the pilot's Oxbridge/Imperial College candidates had been offered places, against a national average of around 1 in 5. The remaining students won places at other world-class universities: the LSE, Edinburgh, Durham, Sheffield and York. All students came from local authorities in the top 10% in the 2010 English Indices of Deprivation. And successful fundraising secured the Institute's short-to-medium-term future.

The pilot – Reach Higher – ran in northern areas in national bottom 20% for progression to elite universities. Our 18 students came from Rotherham and Staveley in the south of our target area, Ossett in the west and Doncaster in the east. The programme had three parts: a confidence-building week's residential at Westminster School in central London in July; in August, an intensive week's subject tuition at Trinity Hall, Cambridge; and in the autumn and winter, more tuition and support for university applications. Our teachers included more than 10 first-class graduates, seven PhDs, two professors and many leading professionals.

Several participants said the programme had changed their lives. Others called it "*truly inspirational*" and said "*the teaching could not have been better*". 100% said they were much more confident both about applying to leading universities and about thriving in life more generally; 100% said they had discovered a wider range of options in life. One partner school called the programme "*beyond outstanding*"; another said its students were "*positively glowing*". A housemaster at one of the country's leading private schools said it was "*the best thing I've done in education*". Parents were similarly enthusiastic.

In setting up Reach Higher, the Institute made strong relations with five schools in Yorkshire and Derbyshire. All but one want to participate in the 2015 programme, despite the modest cost to schools being higher. The number of students applying for Reach Higher in 2015 was approximately triple that of

2014, with stronger candidates in the arts than in the previous year. The Charity offered advice and information to over 200 very able students in our partner schools; as a result the number of students who said they were 'very likely' to apply to world top-10 universities increased five-fold, from 7 to 37.

The charity also built a strong relationship with Westminster School in central London and several Cambridge University colleges. All offered subsidised accommodation and meals for the 2015 programme.

Financially, Linacre began 2014-15 with no guaranteed income. The Charity ended it with more than £43,000 given or pledged for 2015-16 – despite the challenging economic climate. This is enough to run a slightly larger programme in 2015 and to appoint a part-time director to lead and expand the charity.

During the year Linacre began to build a wide and secure funding base. Funds came from several sources:

- Substantial individual donations
- A direct-debit scheme (Linacre Champions)
- Donations from Charitable Trusts and Foundations – the Sheffield Town Trust and the Norman C. Ashton Foundation
- Fundraising by trustees (eg donation of speaking fees)
- Schools' affiliation fees and fees for places

The trustees are most grateful for the generosity which made our success in 2014 possible. In 2015, the Institute will also offer training for teachers and workshops for state schools in more affluent areas, both of which should bring in modest income.

Costs have been kept to a minimum. Accommodation and food at Cambridge were heavily subsidised by our hosts at Trinity Hall and many helpers and volunteers gave up their time for free. Westminster School kindly provided classrooms and teaching support free of charge.

Given this healthy financial position, in 2015-16, the charity should be able to take significant steps towards medium-term sustainability. These include:

- running a slightly larger second Reach Higher pilot, with 20-25 students.
- paying teachers and tutors at a level which remains modest but which moves closer to reflecting their expertise and experience.
- appointing a director on a part-time basis. He or she will take responsibility for all aspects of the Institute's work, including further fundraising. This should lift some of the burden of day-to-day running from trustees.

The results of the Charity's first pilot have set a high standard for future years, and the climate for fundraising remains difficult. But the trustees are quietly

confident that the Charity can set down roots and continue to help able students in deprived parts of northern England fulfil their true potential.

Further information required under Charities Act 2011

Registered address

7 Edgebrook Road
Sheffield
S7 1SG

Charity Trustees

Mr Ross Allen (Chairman)
Mr Billy Boyle
Mr Paul Coupar-Hennessy (Founding Trustee)
Ms Pippa Dodgshon (from 29 April 2014)
Mr Matthew Engel
Professor the Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield
Dr Richard Kowenicki

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its founding document is the constitution agreed on 22 January 2014 and revised on 29 April 2014.

Trustees are appointed on a majority vote of the current board.

The charity works with a network of schools in northern England. In 2014-15 these were:

Ashington High School, Ashington, Northumberland
Chapelton Academy, Sheffield, South Yorkshire
Hall Cross Academy, Doncaster, South Yorkshire
Netherthorpe School, Staveley, North Derbyshire
Ossett Academy, Ossett, West Yorkshire
Wales High School, Kiveton Park, South Yorkshire

The charity selects students for its Reach Higher Pilot programme from these partner schools. Every student in the sixth form at those schools is given chance to apply for our courses, which are widely publicised within the schools. In 2015 more than 100 applied for 20-25 places. More than one interviewer is involved in assessing all applications, and schools' input is invited. All benefits are provided totally free of charge to students and in some cases students were also provided with pocket money for the residential schools. The trustees are confident that access to benefits is not unreasonably or unfairly restricted.

Objects

The objects of the CIO are to further the education of children in northern England who, in particular but not exclusively, are disadvantaged as a result of being a member of a socially and economically deprived community. The CIO does this primarily but not exclusively by means of residential courses, out-of-school-hours teaching and individual mentoring.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and in particular to its public-benefit guidance on advancing education.

Activities undertaken for the public benefit in pursuit of Objects in 201415 include:

- Visiting schools in northern England to provide information about elite universities and to encourage students to fulfil their academic potential.
- Running summer schools for able students at schools in the bottom 20% in England for progression to leading universities.
- Providing on-going tutoring and support for those students.
- Providing training for teachers on how best to support students aiming for elite universities.

Achievements and performance:

- The charity ran two summer schools and a programme of intensive tuition described by one school as "beyond outstanding". Afterwards, 100% of its students said they felt significantly more confident about applying to leading universities.
- 70% of our applicants to Oxbridge and Imperial London were offered places against a national average of around 1 in 5.
- Other students won offers at world-class universities: Durham, Edinburgh, York and Manchester.
- The charity developed strong links with five partner schools.

Beneficiaries

All our beneficiaries in 2014-15 are disadvantaged as a result of being part of a socially and economically deprived community. The regions they come from were all in the top 10% of local authorities in the 2010 English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

As the Charity works with young people, the most significant area of risk to beneficiaries involves ensuring the safety and wellbeing of potentially vulnerable

youngsters (“safeguarding”). In 2014-15, all of our students were surveyed and all “strongly agreed” that they had enjoyed the experience. All parents surveyed said they agreed that their child was safe with us. The Charity is in the process of revising and expanding its safeguarding policy before the summer schools of 2015.

Trustee benefits

No trustees or persons connected with a trustee received any benefit from a free place on our summer schools.

Among the trustees Richard Kowenicki and Paul Coupar both received payments from the charity's bank account in 2014-15. These trustees ran the London and Cambridge summer schools and payments to them consisted of the charity repaying expenses directly related to the core work of the schools, ie repaying the costs of meals bought for students, the costs of groceries for student meals, the costs of books for students and the costs of travel for students. Receipts are available for all these expenses. Paul Coupar was also paid £40 in April 2015 for providing three hours’ tuition to a student; all other work undertaken by trustees was not reimbursed.

Besides the instances detailed above, all trustees gave of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid in the year.

Policy on reserves

As revenues increase in 2015, the charity will formulate a policy on money to be held in reserve. This policy will look to balance the need to guard against unexpected withdrawal of revenue with the desire to spend as much as possible directly on students.

The charity has no funds materially in deficit and no investments.

Statement of Financial Activities
for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2015

	2015
	£
Income	
Champions' donations	1,536
Other single donations	10,652
Donations from other charitable trusts	5,175
Gift aid	2,185
School fees	2,400
Shared costs	85
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	22,033
Expenditure	
Costs of raising funds and administration	
Advertising and promotion	1,376
Administration	291
Fund raising	54
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	1,721
Expenditure on charitable activities	
Residential school costs	11,207
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	11,207
Total expenditure	12,928
Net income	<hr/>
	9,105

**Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2015**

	Notes	2015 £
Current assets		
Bank balance	<u>9,105</u>	
Net current assets		9,105
Net assets		<u>9,105</u>
Accumulated fund		
Net income for the period		9,105
		<u>9,105</u>

**Notes to the Accounts
for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2015**

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE), and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Funds structure

There are no restricted funds. The trustees are free to use unrestricted income funds for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has received the income in its account.

Donations are recognised when they have been received in the charity's account. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Costs of raising funds

Fund raising costs comprise fees charged by external consultants assisting the charity to attract donations.

Charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the direct costs of staging and operating the activities concerned. General promotional and administration costs are not apportioned to specific charitable events or activities.

2 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The trustees all give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind. Expenses paid to the trustees in the year totalled £2,610. These expenses were made up of reimbursements to three trustees for direct costs in staging the core activities of the charity.

3 Analysis of charitable expenditure

Hosting of Cambridge school	4,257
Hosting of London school	5,108
Tuition fees	625
Insurance	405
Other direct costs	812
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	11,207