

MADE FOR MORE



Dear friends, what a crazy start to the academic year we have all had! Whilst the last seven months have been challenging, it has also created new and exciting opportunities for us as a charity.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Kate Gowen has continued to work throughout lockdown, providing much needed support for our young people via our social media platforms. Many young people found great encouragement and hope in the support she shared during a difficult time. Please do follow and share us.

LUNCH CLUBS

These are not viable at this time due to cross year group bubbles and staggered lunchtimes. We have however, begun to look at some remote projects that will continue to promote our message of hope and faith in our City's schools. We are looking to trial a once a term "lunch club in a bag". A typical bag would contain a bible verse and prayer, a fun activity, a 'we are thinking of you' message from the team, a wellbeing resource and a snack. It would be given to students that have previously attended our Made for More lunch clubs at their school and distributed through the RE Department.

MENTORING



The board made the decision at Easter to furlough our other four members of staff. In September, we unfurloughed Emma our team leader, to make contact with all the schools and determine the possibility of our going back in this academic year. The response was overwhelmingly positive, particularly in the area of mentoring. Many of the young people we see have had a difficult time during lockdown - some being at home in unhappy or unsafe environments. Mental health issues have risen and continue to do so. In response to this, it was decided to unfurlough the rest of the team. Last week, we successfully trained up three fantastic new mentors, which we hope to start in school after half term.

ADDRESSING THE NEED

As the furlough scheme comes to a close, we are acutely aware that some students are already beginning to feel the hard reality of a recession. Some families, who were struggling financially before COVID-19, are now in a place of real difficulty. We believe that the practical needs of others often need addressing before meeting a spiritual need.

PERIOD POVERTY



The government have a 'red box project' which means students can access sanitary products if they are struggling financially at home. The box is kept in a central place meaning only one year group can access it under current covid guidelines. Made for More are trialling providing one box per year group bubble, meaning any girl in any year group can access this help.

STATIONERY

All young people need basic stationery in school to be able to access their education. For the first time, students are not allowed to borrow from friends or teachers, so they need to bring the right equipment from home.



Some do not have basic equipment, so we are providing each school with a number of made up pencil cases filled with a glue stick, pens, colouring pencils, geometry equipment, a rubber and a ruler.

HEALTHY SNACKS

20% of secondary school age children do not eat breakfast. Some of them will not eat it through choice, for others there is simply nothing available.

We are putting a snack box in every school that would like one, providing young people with a cereal bar at break time.



MENTAL HEALTH

With more young people than ever wanting mentoring, the reality for our small team is that we are not able to see them all.

Made for More will create support packs for young people who struggle with anxiety promoting healthy mental well-being. The packs will include grounding and calming techniques, colouring paper and pencils, exercises, fiddle toys, lavender bags and encouraging reminders and prompts to boost self-esteem and mindfulness.

Schools are really keen to distribute these amongst some of their students unable to access extra support due to a reduction of services.



There is a huge amount of need and opportunity in equal measures at this moment. We are so pleased to be able to practically care for our young people, and in some cases teachers, in our city. If you would like to help, pray or fund any of these projects we would love to hear from you!

We are working hard to connect well with the churches in Chelmsford, and by the time you are reading this we may well have met with one of your church leaders. Please continue to pray over our team, our mentors, our trustees and most importantly our young people at this time. We look forward to letting you know how some of these projects have gone (and others that we just didn't have space for!) in our next newsletter. Blessings from the Made for More team ❤️