



ACS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025/26

OPENING DOORS, SHAPING FUTURES

Dear Friends,

At a time when the education sector continues to face significant financial and operational challenges, and the world continues to be embroiled in geopolitical crises and conflict, ACS remains a steadying force and beacon for international education firmly focused on the future.

I am very proud of the continued quality of our education, but also the resilience, compassion and international mindedness of our community.

Despite the challenges, we remain fully committed to ensuring that our impact extends beyond the classroom to deliver meaningful public benefit to the local and global communities we serve. Throughout this year, we have continued to invest in our schools, our students, and our partnerships. We have continued to support 43 bursary students, six of whom have graduated this year and will go on to exciting new pathways. We strengthened opportunities for collaboration and inclusion with community stakeholders, and we were able to complete the 'Ready to Thrive' centre at Cobham with an outstanding future-ready learning and collaboration space, the Nexus.

This new education space represents the ethos of our schools: A place where all can meet, learn, discuss, challenge and feel part of a united community. In these times of global challenge, I am most proud that ACS schools remain truly international and that the spirit of belonging continues to thrive.

Charitable work has also continued to be a defining part of ACS life this year. Through our partnerships programme, we have supported children, schools and organisations across the region through meaningful, sustained projects rather than one-off events. Our event at Thorpe Park, celebrating STEAM alongside 10,000 students, 1000 teachers and 80 industry partners is still one of the largest school-led charity events in the UK. Our Young Carers events have provided recognition, joy and support for children who carry significant responsibilities beyond school.

We have also continued to create powerful opportunities through sport, creativity, culture and technology. Our work with Utcai and the Football Family, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Williams F1 Esports, and partners including Amazon, Intel and Microsoft has helped young people connect with inspiring organisations and develop skills for the future. Our regional PenPal programme has grown into a powerful network, now connecting approximately 1,000 children across partner schools, fostering meaningful exchange, empathy, and lasting friendships.

Partnerships take place across ACS every day. Through our charitable work, students develop confidence, compassion, leadership and future workplace skills, ensuring they are READY for the future.

Students, staff, families, donors and partners have shown extraordinary commitment to supporting one another and helping our schools this year. This collective purpose gives us confidence as we look ahead. Their work is underpinned by committed Trustees, and I would like to recognise Nick Bobay, Sheridan Swallow and Corry Wille for their nine years of service.

We are grateful for your generosity and support. Together, we are building a strong and sustainable future for the next generation.



Bob Macnaughton, Chair, Board of Trustees



BOB MACNAUGHTON
CHAIR, BOARD
OF TRUSTEES



DR ROBERT HARRISON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

It is a privilege to write my first introduction as Chief Executive Officer. Having served as a senior ACS educational leader since 2018, I have seen first-hand the extraordinary resilience of our schools, the dedication of our staff, the depth of resources in our parent community, and the inspiring potential of our students.

Education is evolving rapidly, and schools everywhere are navigating increasing pressures and complexity. Yet ACS is entering this next chapter from a position of strength – with a clear sense of purpose, a strong strategic foundation, and a community deeply committed to innovation, inclusion and excellence.

This has been another year for academic excellence. The Class of 2026 graduated with 284 students celebrating an outstanding set of academic qualifications in both the IB and American Advanced Placement exams. They now move on to a wide range of post-secondary study through which they lead the way as our next generation of global thinkers and doers.

As we look to the future, my vision is for ACS to continue leading with confidence as a truly global and values-driven educational charity. We will continue to invest in talented staff, innovative teaching and learning, student wellbeing and inclusive support, while expanding the impact of our partnerships, bursaries and other charitable work across the wider community.

The accelerating pace of technological innovation, economic shifts, and global challenges requires a profound evolution in how we teach and learn. Our Education Strategy anchors this transformation. We value a dynamic, interdisciplinary approach that prioritises adaptive intelligence, ethical tech integration, and real-world problem-solving. By embedding advanced digital competencies alongside critical human skills – like collaborative leadership, emotional resilience, and cross-cultural fluency – we are equipping our students to navigate uncertainty with confidence and purpose.

This forward-looking approach ensures our graduates do not merely enter the workforce; they shape it. However, realising this ambitious vision requires state-of-the-art learning environments, enhanced digital infrastructure, and continuous professional investment in our world-class educators. By investing in our students and their communities, we are directly underwriting the innovative programming and resources that will define the future of education, ensuring every ACS student is ready to lead in a changing world.

The people who aim high and make this happen every day are our dedicated staff. They consistently deliver an authentic, human, enlightened, deeply personalised education. In a year filled with many challenges, ACS employees across the board have continued to inspire.

I'm excited about what lies ahead for ACS and deeply grateful to our students, staff, families, alumni, donors and partners whose support and belief in our vision make this work possible. Together, we will continue to shape a connected, compassionate and forward-looking community where young people can thrive and make a positive difference in the world.



Dr Robert Harrison
Chief Executive Officer

HOW A BURSARY OPENS THE DOOR TO A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY

This year, ACS International Schools launched the Annual Fund across ACS Cobham, Egham and Hillingdon to expand access to transformational bursary opportunities. The Fund supports talented students whose potential and ambition far exceed their financial circumstances, ensuring that an ACS education – and the confidence, opportunity and global outlook it inspires – remains accessible to exceptional young people from all backgrounds.

Bursary students share a common story: uncertainty transformed into confidence, aspiration strengthened by opportunity, and futures reshaped through donor support. This year, Freddy, Luca, Mike and Toby, have all proudly graduated – each leaving ACS with ambitions, achievements and opportunities that once felt out of reach.

At ACS International Schools Cobham, Freddy Jonsson arrived feeling overwhelmed by the size and pace of an international school environment. Through supportive teachers, friendships formed on outdoor education trips, and the opportunity to combine elite football with rigorous academics, Freddy quickly found a sense of belonging. The bursary enabled him to pursue international sporting opportunities while building the confidence to aim high academically. Now preparing to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Freddy reflects that ACS taught him that hard work creates opportunity and ambition has no limits.

Fellow ACS Cobham student, Luca Szalai, experienced a similar transformation. Initially unsure where he would fit in, Luca discovered a school community where individuality is celebrated and students are encouraged to thrive. Breaking a 30-year school record in the 200m became a defining moment in his personal growth, symbolising both confidence and resilience. Supported by teachers and peers alike, Luca developed

academically and personally within ACS's diverse international environment. Now holding multiple university offers, he credits the bursary with giving him direction, belief, and opportunities his family could not otherwise have accessed.

At ACS Hillingdon, Mike Zulu's journey highlights the creative possibilities unlocked through bursary support. Passionate about sport, film, animation and design, Mike embraced opportunities in Art, Design and Visual Effects, including hands-on experiences at Pinewood Studios. Encouraged by teachers who recognised and nurtured his creativity, Mike developed both confidence and ambition, shaping aspirations to study animation or illustration at university. His family describes the bursary as transformational; opening doors to experiences, networks and career pathways that once felt beyond reach.

Alongside these stories is Toby Ruff at ACS Cobham, whose bursary journey reflects exceptional academic and leadership growth. Following family financial hardship, the bursary enabled access to an education that would have otherwise been impossible. At ACS, Toby excelled across AP and IB courses while co-founding a STEM initiative that involved more than 90 students and building links with Cranfield University. These experiences led to a prestigious aerospace research placement and strengthened his ambition to study aerospace engineering at leading global universities

Together, Freddy, Luca, Mike and Toby demonstrate the extraordinary impact of bursary support. These opportunities do far more than remove financial barriers – they expand horizons, nurture talent, and empower young people to become future leaders, innovators and engaged global citizens.



FREDDY JONSSON, ACS COBHAM



MIKE ZULU, ACS HILLINGDON



TOBY RUFF, ACS COBHAM



LUCA SZALAI, ACS COBHAM

NEXUS & READY TO THRIVE – ACS COBHAM

We extend our deepest thanks to all our donors for their generosity and belief in our vision. Your support has been instrumental in bringing to life The Nexus and Ready to Thrive initiative, a transformative £1 million project reflecting our shared commitment to student wellbeing and future readiness.

To date, we have raised more than £920,000 – an exceptional achievement made possible by a community of donors who chose to invest in something enduring and meaningful. After more than five years of planning and collaboration, we were proud to open The Nexus in March this year.



A Transformational Learning Environment

The Nexus has quickly become a vibrant, student-centred space designed for learning, connection, creativity, and independence. Its flexible design allows students to shape the environment around their needs, moving seamlessly between collaborative projects, independent study, quiet reflection, and informal social interaction.

The amphitheatre, breakout areas, and open-plan zones are in constant use for activities ranging from filming projects and group discussions to class breakouts and student-led initiatives. Students are not simply using the space – they are defining it.

Reimagining Space, Elevating Experience

A powerful example of this transformation is the Nexus Bridge. Once a dark, underutilised classroom linking two buildings, it has been reimagined as a light-filled, purposeful environment. Today, it is one of the most valued areas within the Centre, particularly for students seeking a calm and focused study space.

The Heart of Ready to Thrive

At the core of this development is the Ready to Thrive

model – an integrated approach that places wellbeing, guidance, and future planning at the forefront of the student experience.

The Nexus serves as a visible and accessible hub, bringing together college and careers counselling, pastoral support, divisional leadership, library and IT services, and operational leadership. This proximity enables students to access support seamlessly, normalising help-seeking and fostering a culture of confidence, care, and aspiration.

A Catalyst for Community

The Nexus is already playing a pivotal role across the school community. While it is a natural home for Grades 11 and 12, it is equally valued by younger students and increasingly used by Middle School.

Its versatility is reflected in the breadth of activity it supports, including student-led initiatives such as the Girl Up Thrift Shop, creative projects, university engagement events, visiting speakers, assemblies, and exam preparation workshops.

Beyond the student experience, the space is strengthening community connection through parent gatherings, Open Days, and the Future Ready Forum.

A Space Designed for the Future

More than a building, The Nexus represents a shift in how we think about education – towards flexibility, visibility, and human connection. It is a place where students are empowered to collaborate meaningfully, think creatively, and prepare confidently for life beyond school.

Looking Ahead

The Nexus and Ready to Thrive initiative form a cornerstone of our 10-year masterplan. Building on this momentum, our next priority is the reimagining of the High School STEAM Centre, further strengthening our commitment to innovation and interdisciplinary learning.

With Gratitude

Your support has made a lasting difference. You have not only enabled the creation of a remarkable physical space but have helped shape a culture that places student wellbeing, aspiration, and future readiness at its core.

Thank you for your partnership, vision, and belief in what our students can achieve.

CREATIVE & DIGITAL ARTS – ACS HILLINGDON

Thank You

To our generous ACS Hillingdon parents, donors, and community supporters, thank you for supporting the Creative and Digital Arts fundraising campaign. Their generosity has expanded opportunities for students to create, exhibit, collaborate, and grow through the arts.

This year has been a vibrant celebration of creativity across the school. Through exhibitions, competitions, performances, and student-led initiatives, young people have developed confidence, creativity, empathy, and global citizenship. The Creative and Digital Arts programme remains a vital part of school life, enriching the student experience and fostering excellence, innovation, and connection.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and belief in the power of the arts.

The Impact of Your Support

Donor support has enabled students across Grades 5–12 to engage in meaningful creative experiences both within and beyond the classroom. Through exhibitions, competitions, and collaborative projects, students have developed artistic skills whilst building confidence, self-expression, leadership, and a sense of community.

The arts play an important role in supporting student wellbeing, encouraging creativity, resilience, and communication skills that help young people thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Creative Arts Highlights

Throughout the year, students have participated in a rich programme that celebrates achievement and brings creativity into the public sphere.



The Picture of the Month initiative has provided a regular platform for recognising outstanding student work. Selected pieces are showcased across the school, displayed in the Mansion House reception area, and

featured in school communications, creating a strong culture of celebration and pride.

The annual IB/AP Visual Arts Exhibition remains a flagship event, giving students the opportunity to curate and present their work in a professional exhibition setting while sharing their creative journeys with the wider community.

Students have also achieved success beyond ACS Hillingdon. This year, a Grade 12 student progressed from the ISA Regional Art Competition to the National Competition, highlighting both individual achievement and the strength of the Visual Arts programme.

Industry Engagement & Enrichment

Students continue to benefit from an expanding range of experiences across film, music, theatre, media, coding, robotics, and creative technology.

Through engagement with leading organisations including Pinewood Studios, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and Williams F1, students have gained valuable insight into professional creative industries and future career pathways.



Co-curricular opportunities and interdisciplinary learning have encouraged innovation, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving, while the Global Citizen Diploma recognises achievement beyond academics and supports the development of globally minded, creative, and responsible young people.

Looking Ahead

With the continued support of our community, we will continue to invest in meaningful experiences that enable students to create, perform, exhibit, lead, and thrive.

Thank you for helping to nurture students who are confident, creative, and ready to make their mark in the world.

OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Every gift to ACS International Schools helps open doors, transform lives, and strengthen communities. Through the generosity of our donors and the commitment of our partners, we are able to expand access to an ACS education through bursaries, support student wellbeing, and deliver meaningful outreach programmes that benefit schools, educators, and young people beyond our campuses.

The highlights below showcase the collective impact of our community over recent years. Together, these

achievements demonstrate the scale, reach, and lasting value of ACS Partnerships and charitable giving, creating opportunities for children, teachers, schools, and communities while advancing our mission to make a positive difference through education.

To all our supporters, thank you for making this work possible. As we look ahead to new priorities and opportunities, we hope you will continue to be part of this journey and help us create even greater impact together.

PUBLIC BENEFIT FACTS AND FUNDRAISING FIGURES



PARTNERSHIPS 2025/26

The 2025/26 academic year has been a significant year for Partnerships at ACS International Schools, with collaboration at the heart of our work to create meaningful and lasting community impact.

Through partnerships with schools, charities, universities and local organisations, ACS has continued to expand access to educational opportunities for children, families and educators. By sharing the expertise, resources and facilities across our campuses, we have supported curriculum enrichment, STEAM initiatives, leadership development, service learning and wider community projects designed to inspire aspiration and broaden opportunity.

A key priority has been ensuring students experience the value of service beyond the classroom. Across all ACS schools, students have engaged in activities that foster empathy, collaboration and global citizenship, from supporting local schools and charitable initiatives to mentoring younger pupils and participating in community fundraising projects. These experiences help students develop a deeper understanding of social responsibility and the positive impact they can make within their communities.

This year has also highlighted the growing importance of collaboration across the education sector. As many schools continue to face financial pressures and

increasing demand for additional student support, ACS remains committed to partnerships that are purposeful, sustainable and mutually beneficial. In particular, support for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has become an increasingly important focus for future partnership development. By sharing expertise, facilities and inclusive educational practices, ACS aims to help strengthen access, opportunity and wellbeing for a wider range of learners across the community.

Partnership events throughout the year have further brought together schools, charities, universities and industry leaders to create opportunities for learning, networking and inspiration. These initiatives have helped students explore future pathways, engage with role models and better understand how education can be used as a force for positive change.

We are deeply grateful to our donors and partners whose generosity makes this work possible. Your support enables ACS to extend its reach, strengthen community engagement and continue developing programmes that create meaningful opportunities for young people and those around them. Together, we are helping build stronger, more connected communities through education, collaboration and service.

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