

# MAPLE WALK AND FARADAY PREP SCHOOLS



Annual Report 2019-20



It is testament to the unswerving dedication and hard work of all the teachers, staff, and generosity of our benefactors that even during such exceptional times our core values of excellence and philanthropy remain ever steadfast.



This year's report reflects a truly different year of which the latter half was full of unprecedented challenges due to the pandemic. I am proud to say that the schools overcame these with tremendous resilience and impressive adeptness. School teachers and staff ensured that, despite everything, lessons continued remotely to a superbly high standard, setting them apart from their competitors with the speed and continuity that they delivered fully interactive and engaging teaching, coupled with compassion for pupils and families with emotional wellbeing at the fore. Both schools' community spirit shone through, highlighting the important contribution of the schools' parent bodies.

During this difficult time and stress for many families, especial thanks go to our patrons, who have been hugely supportive behind the scenes to ensure that families have not had to leave due to the economic turbulence. There were significant educational achievements too. Sarah Gillam and her team must be congratulated for the The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) rating of 'Excellent

in all Areas' placing Maple Walk amongst the top performing prep schools. Also, both schools' secondary transfers continue to reinforce their high academic standards and strength in the arts with many receiving scholarships.

Organisationally, New Model School Company (NMS) has had a really dynamic year. Peter Meyer, retired in July as CEO (previously CFO) to whom we are greatly appreciative. He has taken NMS from a start up to officially recognised educational excellence within a financially strong group. He hands over confidently to Deborah Livsey, previously our COO. We welcome our new joiners. Jane Hale previously bursar at the House Group, becomes CFO. Jane Ritchie joins us as a non-executive advisor, bringing enormous and valuable experience from running her own Early Years business. Nicolas Crean joins the Board as a director, bringing us his talent and experience as a successful entrepreneur.

*David Jones*

It is fair to say that this has been an “interesting” year to report on in my first Annual Report review as the new CEO.



First, I would like to thank my predecessor Peter Meyer who retired in July. He has been the guiding force of NMS for the past seven years as CEO, seeing the company return to positive reserves and Maple Walk and Faraday schools grow and flourish.

The first six months of the year saw both schools thriving albeit with slightly reduced pupil numbers. Our investment over the summer in the outside Early Years space at both schools was well received and the secondary school transfer results that were finalised in March were excellent with many scholarships. The “high” of the very well deserved ‘Excellent’ ISI rating for Sarah Gillam and her team was sadly, swiftly followed by the “low” of the pandemic lockdown and the need to close our schools to all but children of keyworkers.

The second six months of the year saw rather a different picture, extremely challenging but rewarding too. It also highlighted how well the schools and head office staff work together. The Head teachers and their team worked tirelessly throughout the Easter holidays and for the first half of the summer term to deliver as full an education as possible remotely. In

tandem, the head office staff worked to support the staff at the schools and those families whose income was severely impacted by the pandemic, to ensure they could remain at our schools. Our patrons were also extremely supportive during this time and have provided bursary funds to help us for which we are extremely grateful. Once out of lockdown, both schools led the way with pupils returning to school in the summer term and Faraday’s community collaborations impressively saw all pupils return full time, a far cry from the national picture.

Our finances were impacted by both reduced income and increased Covid related costs, but we achieved some savings too, which together with the generous support from our patrons has meant that we have made a modest profit which considering the difficult year is pleasing and is tribute to Peter Meyer’s financial management of our limited resources, and our Head teachers and their staff’s continued dedication to their pupils.

**Deborah Livsey,**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Profit and Loss Account**  
**(Statement of Comprehensive Income)**  
**Year to 31 August 2020**

	2020 £	2019 £
Turnover	3,211,006	3,333,794
Cost of sales	<b>(2,598,597)</b>	(2,654,373)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>612,409</b>	679,421
Administrative expenses	<b>(597,591)</b>	(463,581)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>14,818</b>	215,840
Interest receivable and similar income	<b>9,748</b>	12,775
Interest payable and expenses	<b>(250)</b>	(250)
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>24,316</b>	228,365
Tax on profit	<b>(17,460)</b>	(51,032)
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	<b>6,856</b>	177,333

**Statement of Financial Position**  
**at 31 August 2020**

	2019 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	<b>220,829</b>	<b>189,517</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	<b>351,500</b>	<b>89,860</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>1,872,875</b>	<b>2,131,964</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<b>(1,688,543)</b>	<b>(1,666,526)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>535,832</b>	<b>555,928</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>756,661</b>	<b>744,815</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>
<b>Provisions for liabilities: Deferred tax</b>	<b>(31,407)</b>	<b>(26,426)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>720,254</b>	<b>713,389</b>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
Called up share capital	<b>501,057</b>	<b>501,057</b>
Profit and loss account	<b>219,197</b>	<b>212,332</b>
	<b>720,254</b>	<b>713,389</b>

## Directors and Advisors

### Directors:

**David Jones: MA (Cantab) DL (Chairman)** spent 26 years at UBS/Warburg and is now a partner at the investment firm Oldfield Partners. He served as Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company until the end of 2020.

**Deborah Livsey: LLB Hons (Exeter) (CEO)** has had a 15 year career in finance internationally. She is a governor at Amesbury, a preparatory school in Hampshire, joining NMS in 2018 as its COO and became CEO in July 2020.

**Robin Broadhurst: CVO, CBE.** Has spent over 40-years in the property industry. He currently has a range of board appointments and consultancies.

**Nicholas Crean: BSc (Exeter)** has numerous philanthropic interests. He started his career with Saatchi & Saatchi before setting up Hesketh Crean Consultants, an award-winning corporate film and presentation training company. Buying chocolate brand "Prestat" over twenty years ago, he has successfully grown the business into an industry leader globally.

**Xavier Villers: MA (Oxon)** was a senior partner at Miller Insurance Services LLP and was Chairman of the Marine Executive of the London and International Insurance Brokers Association

### Advisors:

**Jonathan Cubitt: BA ACA (Chairman of the Audit Committee)** is Bursar of Queen's Gate School.

**Andrew Ellams, MA (Oxon), (Chairman of the Teaching and Learning Committee)** is Senior Deputy Head and Director of Studies at St Paul's Girls' School.

**Ian Elliott (Parent Advisor)** is a parent of two children at Maple Walk School, provides consultancy support in delivering innovative services to children.

**Ben Fitzgerald-O'Connor (Parent Advisor)** is a parent of two children at Faraday School. He runs his own IT company.

**Sally Hobbs, BA (Hons), PGCE,** taught in the independent sector for over thirty years, was named Prep School Head of 2015 and has been given a TES Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Jane Ritche, (Early Years Professional (CWDC), Cert Ed in Early Childhood Education)** has 40 years experience as a specialist in Early Years Education within the independent sector and was the founder/owner of The Minors Nursery School, London from 1990 to August 2005.

**Justin Shaw: MA (Cantab)** is an author and former Director and Deputy Chairman of NMS.



In the early days of March 2020, Independent Schools' Inspectorate (ISI) declared that Maple Walk was "Excellent, in all areas".



The judgement, by the ISI, was the culmination of team work, planning and preparation by the impressive team of dedicated teaching and support staff. It indicated that not only are we excellent within the academic realm but also pastorally and that we fulfil the ambitious aims of the School and those of NMS.

Academically, Maple Walk continued to focus on the development of the core subjects alongside a creative curriculum. The before and after school clubs ensure that the children are provided with a unique range of opportunities and their attainment across subjects is considerable for their age.

The pupils' attitudes to learning are extremely positive and they are highly productive in both individual and collaborative work. The Inspectors were impressed with their ability to think for themselves plan and organise themselves effectively.

Pastorally, the pupils continue to be self-reflective and are confident and safe within the School. A member of the Senior Leadership Team or Admin department is always on hand to listen to any problems and concerns. We continue to offer the pupils many opportunities to perform and present to their peers and adults so that pupils leave us confident, articulate with an excellent work ethic.

Our Year 6 pupils achieved outstanding success with many attaining academic, drama, art and music aptitude scholarships in the secondary transfer process.

Our delight with the Inspection was short-lived as within a week, the School faced lockdown with lessons going online with only key worker children on site. The staff team used live zoom lessons, small group sessions and online educational platforms to ensure the education of those at home was not impacted too severely. As soon as it was possible, with our small classes, the pupils returned and I am pleased that the whole school was back on site before the end of term.

Maple Walk is a small community with a big-heart and the whole School has worked together in a rather magical way this year. Success of a school is impossible without the support of the staff, the CEO and her team and also the fabulous pupil and parent body. The parent body (known as the Friends) enable Maple Walk to provide the 'extras' and this is so important to enrich the curriculum and opportunities for all the pupils; a huge thank you to them!

**Sarah Gillam,**  
December 2020





**SMALL  
SCHOOL  
BIG  
HEART**  
29TH APRIL 2020

As Chair and on behalf of parents and The Friends of Maple Walk I would like to use this space to thank the hard work and dedication of all staff (school and NMS), and congratulate them on delivering education to our children throughout an extremely difficult year.

Covid has been incredibly frustrating and obviously interrupted a year's worth of fundraising by The Friends of Maple Walk. No bake sales, no Christmas Fair, no socialising or raffles or auctions. Even so, we found time during periods of lockdown to create a simple poster of rainbows made by children, celebrating "a small school with a big heart." This along with our recipe book, traditional Christmas cards and wreaths maintained a level of funding to enable the children to enjoy the fun extras that supplement the curriculum.

Perhaps the biggest frustration of the year was the investment in the lighting rig in the school hall and a new stage, totalling £11,000 and paid for by The Friends thanks to fundraising during 2019. Both of these were installed in February 2020 and parents look forward to a time when we'll be welcomed back to school and see our children performing on the stage, under the lights.

Looking forward to brighter times, we will break with tradition and hold a Summer Fair in 2021 when, all being well, cake will return to the playground at Maple Walk School.

**Ian Elliott**

Chair of The Friends of Maple Walk

There have been so many areas of growth and achievement at Faraday this year, as we have adapted to the changing needs of our families and educational challenges presented by Covid 19.



The creative and innovative nature of the staff team has continued to impress me and it is their dedicated, positive and courageous approach that has led Faraday's success. The teachers and assistants embraced teaching remotely, learning new technical skills quickly to provide engaging, interactive lessons from March and the first national lockdown. Then, with equal measure, jumped back into on-site teaching with a raft of new rules so that we could open fully for all children during the summer term.

We have forged new links in our local community too; with glorious art studios lent to us by The Royal Drawing School in the summer and a clear desire from all at Trinity Buoy Wharf to work together and find ways to allow the children to gain all they can from their time in school. One such highlight included Year 3 & 4's art project based on, The Shield of Achilles by WH Auden, which they completed in a local studio with a visiting artist from Italy. Teaching off-site for part of this year made clear to us the true value of being in school and working with one another face to face. Being taught as a class and having 'real-life' experiences with visiting professionals, including well known film animator Tim Allen, really helps to bring learning to life and make it memorable for the children.

We have developed our focus on arts and sciences this year, with projects and curriculum coverage giving the pupils opportunities to be creative with their thinking, investigation and design skills. The Science Fair has become a popular and eclectic event, with inventions and presentations across all fields and all ages. Our computing curriculum has evolved, with specialist teaching extending and challenging the pupils' understanding of computer science.

We welcomed our first two recipients of the Faraday Fishmongers' Award into Years 4 and 5; and they are thriving, alongside our other new starters. Faraday's reputation is growing in the local community - the school has carved out a unique ethos, which runs in parallel to the knowledge based curriculum at the heart of the NMS philosophy. We look forward to continued growth next year.

**Claire Murdoch,**  
December 2020



Friends of Faraday help support the great work of the school and staff by fundraising to buy extra equipment and experiences and help support the community of the school, one of Faraday's great qualities.

Each year, we put on several regular events for the children and families of the school such as summer fair, school disco, film nights, cake sales and Christmas raffle to assist in our fundraising.

Obviously, this year has been an exception, yet with the help of the school we held our annual in-school book fair, with a portion of sales providing new books for the library. The children also designed their own Christmas cards. As many of our normal in-person

events had to be cancelled, we enjoyed, with great success, an online quiz for parents and teachers. Not only did we raise over £300, it was a great way to bring the community of the school together for a fun evening which I'm sure will become a regular feature on our calendar. A new Reception parent commented, "We were able to see more staff and parents during the quiz than we have given the current situation!"

We are all very grateful to the school and staff at Faraday for how supportive and creative they have been in getting our children through this year and, as always, willing to go the extra mile to make Faraday a happy, positive experience and community.

## Secondary School Transfers

At NMS we aim to prepare all pupils for their next stage academically, whether competing for a place at a highly selective independent school or joining their peers within the maintained sector. We are enormously proud of all our pupils, who leave our schools confident and with a great sense of personal accomplishment.

**In 2020 we had 38 Year 6 graduates and we received offers from the following schools, including 13 scholarships/awards.**

Aldenham School	Kew House
Belmont	Latymer Upper
Bexley Grammar School	Maida vale
Blackheath Girl's School	More House
Cheadle Hulme School	Northbridge House
City of London	Northbridge (Canonbury)
City of London School for Girls	Nottinghill & Ealing High
Croydon High School	Queen Elizabeth Boys
East London Science School	South Hampstead
Emanuel School	St James Girls
Francis Holland, Regents Park	St Joseph's School
Godolphin and Latymer	Thorpe Hall
Holland Park	University College Girls
Ibstock Place	Wetherby
John Lyon	Wilmington Boys School

In previous years, pupils have received offers from the schools listed above, and also:

Arts Educational, Bedales, Bales College, Berkhamsted, Blackheath School for Girls, Camden Girls, Canary Wharf College, Channing, Chigwell School, Christ's Hospital, Chigwell, Colfes, Dwight, Eaton Square, East London Science School, Forest School, Francis Holland Sloane Square, French Lycée, The German School, The Grey Coat Hospital School, Haberdashers, Hampstead School, Hanford (Blandford Forum), Harris Boys East Dulwich, Harrodian, Highgate, Henrietta Barnett, Hockerill College, JcoSS, King Alfred, Kingham Hill (Oxfordshire), Leweston (Sherborne), Lockers Park, The London Oratory, Marylebone Girls, Marylebone Boys, Merchant Taylors, Monmouthshire School for Girls, More House, Portland Place, Queens Gate, Queens College, The Quay Radnor House, St Augustine's, St Christopher Letchworth, St Benedicts, St Dunstan's College, St James Senior Boys', St Paul's Girls' School, St Paul's Boys, Thames Christian College, Upton Court Grammar School, Westminster.

## Our vision

**To provide a first class education at the lowest sustainable cost:**

**This means:**

- Setting high expectations for each child's individual learning and development.
- Using a knowledge-based approach in preparing children both for public examinations and for the rest of their life.
- Providing inspirational teaching by enthusiastic and high-achieving teachers across a wide range of academic subjects and extra-curricular activities.
- Using a not for profit ethos and a model for running schools which makes us as affordable as we can be to as many people as possible.



## Our values

### **Our community**

- Our values derive from a broadly Christian ethos, with obligations of courtesy, helpfulness and openness.

### **Our work**

- Starting with strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, to instill a love of learning in children through an inspiring and broad curriculum.

### **Our goals**

- To teach pupils in a way that allows them to fulfil their potential and to grow towards maturity and self-confidence.
- To instill habits of effective learning and good behaviour at an early age. To deliver value for money and maintain strong links with our parent body.
- To nurture and inspire.



## Farewell from Peter Meyer, CEO



I regard my time at NMS as one of the most fulfilling periods of my life. Fulfilment has come from the people involved – the children who have been so charming and such good learners; the teachers and staff who have maintained high standards whilst working their socks off; my co-workers at Head Office who have shown such initiative and flexibility; and the directors, advisors and patrons who have provided the framework and funding for the activities of NMS. The roll-call is long.

I started my involvement in 2009, just after NMS had moved Maple Walk into new premises and opened two new schools. There were just 132 children, spread across 7 classes in three schools. Support and documentation were running behind ambition, and credit is due to Peter Wolton for establishing a sound legal, regulatory and contractual basis for education. Finances were heavily in loss and in need of attention. After 3 years of stabilisation we raised just over £500,000 from social investors in 2012, providing us with a sound financial base. In both West and East London we have enjoyed relationships of long-lasting benefit to NMS and its school communities with our landlords (respectively Lord Craigmyle and Eric Reynolds).

Just as important has been the focus on education. The arrival of Sarah Gillam in

2012 was pivotal in initially developing our processes, and the excellent relationship that she has formed with Claire Murdoch since 2018 has benefitted both schools. NMS is lucky to have two such excellent Heads.

Since 2013 we have consistently shown surpluses. How was this possible? In 2013 we merged our West London schooling at Maple Walk, reducing our costbase. Thereafter, the inspirational tuition and care from our staff has enabled us to retain children and attract more; we have had the support and resilience of parents, who, even in the trying circumstances of 2020, have consistently found the funds to pay us; and we have benefitted from donations that have enabled parents in financial difficulties to stay with us. We must especially thank staff, parents and donors for making the positive result in 2019-20 possible, despite all our fears in March 2020.

In 2020-21, interest in the education we provide remains high and we remain confident about our prospects. I leave NMS in the best possible hands – those of Deborah Livsey, whose calm, caring attention to detail was so essential in guiding us through successive lockdowns.



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