

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission

Momentum is a not-for-profit organisation which provides personal development programmes for young people. We are registered in England as a Community Interest Company.

Our mission is to create sustainable change in the lives of young people and their communities.

Our long term vision is for our programmes to inspire thousands of young people every year, across all parts of the UK and internationally.

For every young person who takes part in one of our programmes, we are aiming for 2 simple outcomes: a life changed for the better, and a CV to be proud of.

Activities

We run 3 types of activity:

- Programmes for young people
- Courses for professionals
- Consultancy services

We mainly work with young people aged 15 – 22, especially people with fewer opportunities. Our programmes are different because they:

- put young people at the centre of everything
- focus on long term (up to 5 years) engagement, not one-off activities
- combine intensive international experiences with sustained local school or community projects
- require participants to work with other young people, thus creating wider impact within communities
- allow continual, cumulative progress within a structured international network
- provide a flexible framework for a wide range of other positive activities
- create partnerships between all sorts of different individuals and organisations working with young people
- inject more substance into existing international links, or help to create new ones
- are multi-disciplinary; they are not just “about” one particular theme or skill area
- mix challenge with fun, and reward effort with further opportunity

Aims and approach

We believe:

- One of the best ways for young people to change their outlook on life is through positive experiences away from their everyday environment.
- Young people are often unsure of their own potential or how to achieve it: they need continual encouragement and practical empowerment within a supportive community.
- From the age of about 16, young people tend to become more ready for learning; they should be helped to take responsibility for their own development.
- Young people themselves are the most effective agents of influence and change within their peer groups.
- Shared experience and friendship with people from other cultures is the key to an open mind and a more tolerant society.

Our aims are:

- To enable young people to expand their horizons and aspirations, give them a positive direction and help them prepare for the world of work.
- To increase young people's participation in international projects and exchanges.
- To empower and motivate young people in their home community through local projects and groups.
- To cultivate an international network of similarly motivated young people.
- To recognise, value and celebrate young people's positive contribution to society.
- To add value to the work of other educational and youth organisations.

Momentum is not connected to any particular group or geographical region. We have no political or religious affiliation, and are committed to the personal development of all young people regardless of social, cultural, economic or other circumstances.

Previous experience

Momentum is built on the strong track record of its founders, encompassing design and management of numerous international and intercultural youth projects, large scale residential youth events and summer schools; development of youth networks; wide-ranging practical grass-roots youth and community work (both within and beyond the formal education system); outdoor education (including establishment and growth of one of the UK's top centres); youth film and digital media projects; staff development; strategic planning; and business management. As well as the UK, we have experience of working in countries as diverse as Germany, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Macedonia, Albania, China and Ethiopia.

Clients and Partners

Our programmes support key policy priorities for education and youth, and meet the needs of organisations including:

- Secondary schools and Academies
- Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges
- Universities
- Local Authorities and agencies
- Youth organisations and groups
- Commercial companies, especially those with CSR interests in education and youth
- International organisations

We look for partnerships with other national and international organisations so that young people can get the most out of all available positive activities and projects, regardless of who organises them.

Further information

More information is available in our programme brochures and on our website:

www.youthmomentum.org