

## Young social entrepreneurs improving literacy in primary schools

**Year 9 students at St Bernard's Catholic High School in Cumbria were shocked when they discovered that many students entered their school with below average literacy skills and had already been turned off reading.**

As avid book lovers themselves they wanted to get to the bottom of this problem and identified that often it starts at a much younger age, when children are first learning to read.

### The Solution

Students wrote and designed a **range of story books** aimed at Key Stage 1 students featuring the fictional characters 'Little Owls.'

Having perfected their product students went on to plan a series of workshops based on these books which could be run with Key Stage 1 students in local primary schools.

The sessions aimed to **improve children's literacy and comprehension skills** whilst also promoting a life-long love for reading. To increase the educational benefits a range of **interactive workbooks** were created to complement each story.

Having contacted one of their local feeder primary schools, ten Year 1 students were identified to take part in the programme. In total students ran five thirty minute workshops.

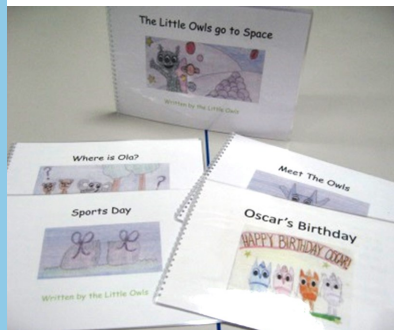


### Getting the project off the ground

In order to **cover the costs of materials** for their workshops students went into business making and selling owl shaped lollies within their school. They also secured **sponsorship** from a local business, Signal Films.

'The primary pupils became familiar with the routine of the Little Owls and became more receptive to reading and actually discussing books and giving their own opinions about the stories by the end of the workshops.'

Year 9 Student



'We have thoroughly enjoyed working as a team trying to improve reading skills within our local community. We feel the qualities we have learned will help us in later life and we would recommend Giving Nation to anyone.'

Year 9 student

### And what next?

Students fully intend to keep their enterprise running and are already in the process of contacting other local schools to set up future bookings.