

**News Release: 10 a.m. (date)**

## **RIBBLE VALLEY SCHOOL SEEKS FORMER STUDENTS.**

Did you go to Bowland High School? If you're a former student who would like to support current students, the school would love to hear from you!

Right now, there are students in the assembly hall where you once sat, facing similar challenges and opportunities that you did. Being connected to you could really help them.

The school in Grindleton is one of more than 500 state schools and colleges across Britain which have registered with the charity Future First to set up networks of former students or alumni.

Future First's vision is that every state school or college should be supported by a thriving, engaged alumni community that helps it to do more for its students.

More than 50,000 former students across Britain have already signed up to stay connected with their old school. They're inspiring young people in a number of ways; as career and education role models, mentors or e-mentors, work experience providers, governors, donors or fundraisers.

It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help!

"More than 39 per cent of state school students don't know anyone in a job they'd like to do," said Alex Shapland-Howes, Managing Director of **Future First**. "If they see that someone who went to the same school, grew up in the same community, has achieved a fulfilling and satisfying job, it helps them see it's possible for them too. It's really important for all students to be motivated to succeed in the working world and hearing first hand from relatable people in interesting jobs can make a huge difference."

John Tarbox, Headteacher said, “We signed up to **Future First’s** scheme straightaway. A network of past pupils with all their valuable experience will be vital in helping us to broaden current pupils’ jobs horizons and equip them for the world of work.”

Helen Dakin who manages the **Future First** scheme at the school, is waiting to hear from former students on [hdakin@bowlandhigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:hdakin@bowlandhigh.lancs.sch.uk) Former students can also sign up to **Future First’s** alumni scheme by clicking on the “Former Students” link on the website [www.futurefirst.org.uk](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk) .

Teachers wishing to sign up another school to **Future First** should click the “Schools and Colleges staff” link..

For further information about **Future First**, log onto [www.futurefirst.org.uk](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk) . Alternatively contact our Press and Publicity Officer Sue Crabtree on [sue@futurefirst.org.uk](mailto:sue@futurefirst.org.uk), our Programme Director, Megan Clatworthy on [megan@futurefirst.org.uk](mailto:megan@futurefirst.org.uk) or call one of the team on 0207 239 8933.

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