

COMPASSION MATTERS

Supporters Update

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE DALAI LAMA CENTRE FOR COMPASSION

If we haven't met before I wanted to say hello and express my sincerest thanks for your continued support of the Dalai Lama Centre for Compassion and our education project Compassion Matters. I have been fortunate to have been involved in the centre's work for 18 months leading the Compassion Matters project having previously worked for the University of Oxford and various education NGOs and projects.

Working in the education sector and teaching meditation to children for many years, I have seen first hand the need for a refocusing towards compassion in our schools. A recent OECD PISA report outlined that children in the UK had the most significant decline in life satisfaction of any nation surveyed. British children ranked next to last among those agreeing that "my life has a clear meaning or purpose", while the UK was alone in Europe in having more than half of its children reporting that they regularly felt sad. The findings in this report show that the DLCC's mission to support children, teachers and school communities in their understanding and cultivation of compassion could not be more critical.

It is a privilege to lead this important project, and I look forward to working with you and sharing our progress with you regularly through 2020. If you have any questions or if I can offer any assistance please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes and seasons greeting from all at the DLCC.

Jimi Slattery
Executive Director
Compassion Matters at The Dalai Lama Centre for Compassion





PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

We have been spending some time this autumn reviewing our progress over the last 18 months and looking at how we can build a sustainable and impactful project from 2020 to the future. This has involved engaging with experts in various areas but most importantly the input of Eleanor Marsden, who has been helping with our fundraising strategy. It has been an excellent opportunity to reflect on progress so far ensuring we are in the best shape to continue to have a positive impact as we head into 2020 and beyond.

REACHING NEW SCHOOLS

The first half of the autumn term for teachers is dominated by learning new pupils names, getting to grips with policy changes and making sure plans made in the summer come to fruition. Once past the October half term, we begin to see schools start to look for new projects and collaborations.

For the DLCC and CM, this means that October and November are busy times for engaging with new schools. We have been busy travelling and contributing to education events from London to Cambridge, Derby and Devon, speaking, exhibiting, providing workshops and networking with teachers looking for ways to bring a greater focus on compassion to the schools.

Highlights this term have included; speaking at the Ultimate Wellbeing in Education conference in London and running a CPD workshop for staff at the fantastic Kite Teaching Schools Alliance in Cambridge.

Alongside contributing to education sector events, we have been busy building partnerships with clusters of schools such as the Leo Academy Trust and Reach2 Multi-Academy Trust. These partnerships offer us the opportunity to reach schools across the country and at a larger scale with some trusts having as many as 70 schools under their care.

All of this hard work from Dalai Lama Centre for Compassion's trustees, advisers and staff have resulted in 3500 children taking part in Compassion Matters lessons in the past 12 months. We currently work in 12 countries from Cyprus to Nigeria to Thailand supporting teachers to use our 30+ hours of resources with children. We work with mainstream schools, education charities such as IntoUniversity and Lauriston Lights, pupil referral units and with schools supporting children with special education needs. Children aged 9-18-year-olds have engaged with our project in these varied settings.

The adoption of CM in these varied locations and education contexts is heartening as a primary aim of the project is to ensure it is accessible to teachers and children regardless of location, experience of compassion education or financial means. We are all looking forward to the challenge of bringing Compassion Matters to more schools in 2020!



COMING UP IN 2020

We have several plans and projects for the New Year which we want to share with you:

- A supporters dinner to bring together our new and current advisers, trustees and staff. We will be in touch in the new year with further detail.
- Completing our Justice and Suffering modules, meaning we will have 40+ hours of learning resources for schools. We would be grateful to hear if you have any ideas or suggestions for individuals to feature in our films or classroom materials.
- Contributing to several conferences and events including the 11th Festival of Education, British Research in Education Conference and Institute of Outdoor Learning. If you know of any events that Compassion Matters could positively contribute to let us know.
- Continuing to build partnerships with multi-academy trusts, teaching school alliances and other schools groups. If you have a link to a group or individual school that you think would like to learn more about CM an introduction would be very welcome.