

*the*  
**HUO FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**

# Impact Report 2020



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*The Huo Family Foundation is a grant-giving foundation based in London. Its mission is to support education, communities and the pursuit of knowledge.*

*2020 was an extraordinary year. During this period in which the world was rocked by the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been the Huo Family Foundation's privilege to continue to support education, communities, and the pursuit of knowledge.*

The organisations which we support were put under enormous pressure in this tumultuous year, with many having to change their working practices overnight. The Huo Family Foundation shifted its focus so that we could support the areas we felt were of greatest need: COVID-19 research and education.

This report, our first annual Impact Report, showcases the incredible work carried out by some of the brightest minds in scientific research and the educators transforming the lives of future generations. We see their dedication, skill and ingenuity in the face of disruption and uncertainty.

Through the Huo Family Foundation we want to enable others to reach their potential, to make great scientific discoveries, to release artistic talent, and to gain a better understanding of our world.

In 2020 we continued to support ARK, Cambridge University, Columbia University, Fudan University, Natural History Museum, Oxford Internet Institute, Policy Exchange, Princeton University, Tate, Teach for All, Teach for China, Teach First and Youth Communication.

We were delighted to make new grants to the Ashmolean, Imperial College, King's College London, Oxford University, Pro-Bono Economics, Royal Academy of Arts and the Science Museum.

In 2020 we witnessed our collective ability to achieve incredible outcomes in the face of adversity. This gives us hope for the future and a desire to continue to play our part in making the world a better place for generations to come.

*Yan Huo & Xue Fang*

*Founders of the Huo Family Foundation*

# 2020 beneficiaries

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## Education



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## COVID-19



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## Arts



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## Policy & Research



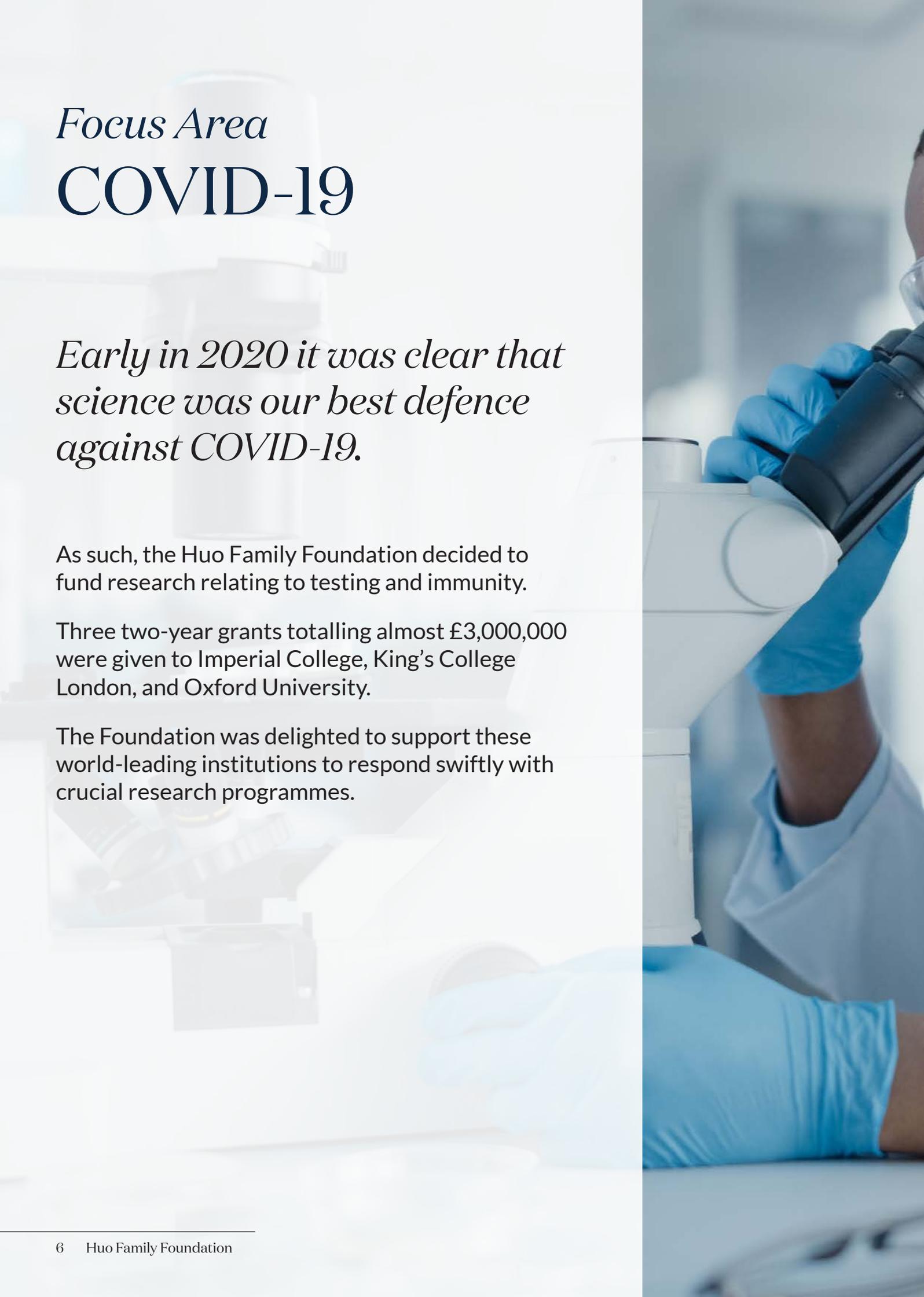


# Our mission and impact

*Since its inception in 2009, the Huo Family Foundation has given over \$45 million to support projects in the UK, US and China.*

The Foundation's mission is to support education, communities, and the pursuit of knowledge. Its current areas of focus are education; neuroscience and psychology; public policy; the arts and COVID-19 research.

Through its grants, the Foundation hopes to improve the prospects of individuals, and to support the work of organisations seeking to build a safe and successful future for all society.



## *Focus Area*

# COVID-19

*Early in 2020 it was clear that science was our best defence against COVID-19.*

As such, the Huo Family Foundation decided to fund research relating to testing and immunity.

Three two-year grants totalling almost £3,000,000 were given to Imperial College, King's College London, and Oxford University.

The Foundation was delighted to support these world-leading institutions to respond swiftly with crucial research programmes.



“ *This research will provide essential insights into the prevalence and spread of the virus among communities* ”

Professor Alice Gast, President of Imperial College London

# Imperial College London

## £1m Grant

Awarded August 2020

*"Imperial's vital work at the forefront of the global fight against COVID-19 is made possible thanks to the generous support of organisations like the Huo Family Foundation. This research will provide essential insights into the prevalence and spread of the virus among communities, including on our campuses, informing policy in the UK and across the world."*

Professor Alice Gast  
President of Imperial College London

### HFF's grant enabled Imperial to establish their on-campus track-and-trace programme

HFF's funding supported the use of novel diagnostic technologies in Imperial's on-campus testing programme for staff and students to identify patterns of transmission and inform the university's response.

The grant supported the university's infrastructure, maximising the scientific insights gleaned from the REACT studies – two of the most influential and wide-ranging studies of COVID in the UK, led by Professor Paul Elliott.

The REACT programmes had a staggering reach and provided valuable insights into the spread of COVID-19 in the UK.

- The REACT-1 programme's first 8 rounds, from May until November, tested 1,596,268 members of the public to determine COVID-19 prevalence across the UK.
- REACT-2 found that, in a sample of 365,000, the level of antibodies protecting those who have tested positive against COVID-19 waned very quickly (within a few months).





# King's College London

## £993k Grant

Awarded August 2020

*"This funding award is essential for us to further develop novel research into COVID-19, expanding our preliminary work, built on the effort of an incredible team of volunteers and goodwill. We look forward to contributing to the fight against COVID-19, supporting diagnostics and further disease understanding."*

Dr Rocio Martinez-Nunez  
Lecturer in the School of Immunology  
& Microbial Sciences

### HFF funded King's College London's COVID-19 antibody research

In February 2020 it became clear that COVID-19 was a highly transmissible virus. Upon this realisation, King's Health Partners made the collective decision to halt all other laboratory-based research and shift their focus to the new virus.

HFF's funding helped to enable Professor Michael Malim's team, split across four labs (including a newly established COVID-19 diagnostic extension lab within Guy's Hospital in London), to try and better understand the virus. The research investigated how the body responds to infection, specifically the quality and nature of the body's immune response, in the hope of ascertaining why the elderly and those with underlying health conditions are far more likely to be severely ill.

Looking forward, Professor Malim believes COVID-19 research will continue for a very long time. "There are so many elements to it - growth, replication, vaccination, and consequences like long-COVID where there is much that still needs to be understood".

# University of Oxford

## £1m Grant

Awarded July 2020

*"We are enormously grateful to the Huo Family Foundation for donating £1 million towards COVID-19 immunity research at Oxford. The Foundation's generous gift will enable our researchers to investigate the strength of the antibody response in those who had the virus - work that could prove crucial in helping to determine how best to manage the pandemic and protect the NHS from being overwhelmed."*

Sir John Bell, Regius  
Professor of Medicine,  
University of Oxford

## HFF's funding supported two projects

Professor Sarah Walker's team works with the Office for National Statistics on the COVID-19 Infection Survey. Their research informs the ONS' weekly release providing an update on the status of COVID-19 in the UK, which has provided valuable advice to the NHS and policymakers throughout the pandemic. It has helped track the spread and concentration of COVID-19 in each area, while also allowing a better understanding of the proportion of those infected who are asymptomatic. They currently swab test 150,000 people per fortnight.

Additionally, a study led by Professor Paul Klenerman, monitors the immune response of those working in close proximity with COVID-19 patients and in constant contact with the virus. Specifically, their work looks into how T-cells are involved in the body's fight against COVID-19. The study initially involved 250 participants and was subsequently expanded to more than 500, with a new focus on the response to vaccines.



**“** *We look forward to contributing to the fight against COVID-19, supporting diagnostics and further disease understanding*

Sir John Bell, Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford



“ *We have been able to create a programme that is not only comprehensive but also filled with fantastic resources and training* ”

Liz Tyler, Managing Director, Ark Curriculum+



## *Focus Area*

# Education

*In 2020, young people found themselves suddenly shut out of the schools that taught and cared for them, forced to face a new type of schooling.*

Almost immediately, education providers pivoted to move their programmes online.

Below, we highlight two such organisations that, with the Huo Family Foundation's support, continued to work to provide children across the UK access to an equitable education throughout the pandemic.

# Ark

## £1.46m Grant

over three years

Awarded August 2018

*"With the Huo Family Foundation's contribution we have been able to recruit a superb full-time team of expert science teachers. We have been able to create a programme that is not only comprehensive but also filled with fantastic resources and training. The team has also been able to effectively support the implementation of our programme."*

Liz Tyler  
Managing Director, Ark Curriculum+

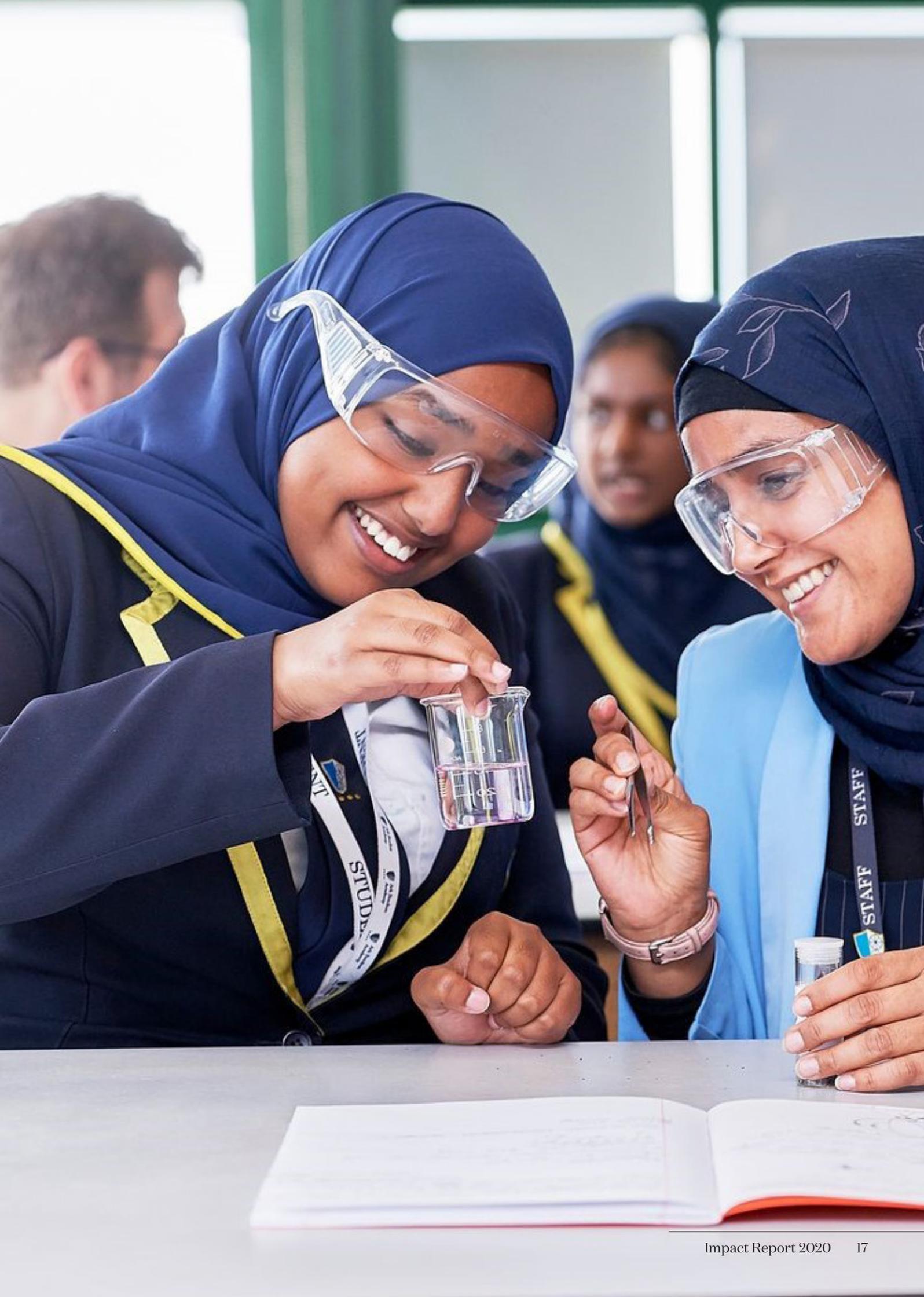
## HFF supports Ark's Science Mastery Programme

The Mastery programme delivers a wide-ranging science curriculum for Key Stage 3, informed by the latest cognitive and educational research. The curriculum focuses on ensuring students are not merely able to recall information but can apply what they have learned in a variety of novel situations, improving their intellectual creativity, their ability to solve problems, and their resilience.

*The Science Mastery Curriculum* links teacher training to the individual lessons with a focus on understanding how students will experience them, enabling educators to make the most of every lesson.

When schools were forced to close in March 2020, Ark's curriculum was swiftly adapted to enable pupils to learn from home. In December 2020, HFF agreed an additional grant to enable the pilot to be extended for a further year to help counter the impact COVID-19 has had on students in the UK.

Despite the challenges of 2020, Ark's programme worked across seven schools with 30 teachers, educating around 1000 students. By September 2020, the programme had recruited a further 16 pilot schools.





# Teach First

## £1.5m Grant

over three years

Awarded August 2018

*"We are so grateful to the Huo Family Foundation for their generosity and support of our work. Over the course of the partnership with Teach First, [HFF] have helped us to support those schools and pupils who needed it most."*

Lizzie Emilion  
Head of Philanthropy, Teach First

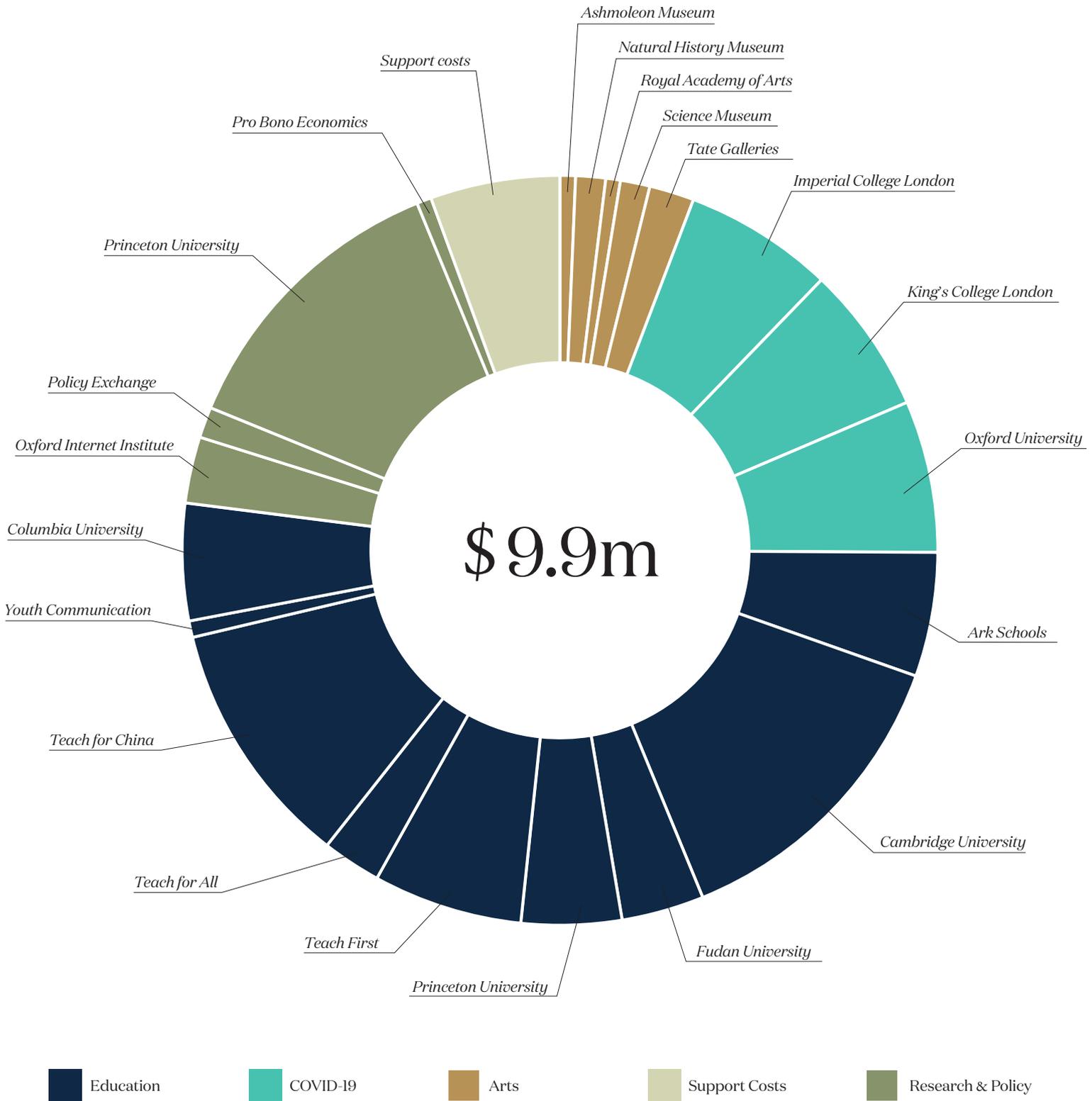
## HFF supports two of Teach First's School Leadership programmes

Teach First is one of the Foundation's longest standing partners, having worked together since 2014. In 2020, HFF supported two key programmes to help develop effective leadership in schools within disadvantaged or marginalised communities.

*Leading Together* is a unique, two-year programme which builds and sustains strong leadership teams in order to improve the educational outcomes of a school's entire cohort. Since its inception in 2018, *Leading Together* has worked with 81 schools across six regions of the UK. The third cohort received increased support during the pandemic; the result being every leadership team involved is on track to meet their targets despite the myriad challenges COVID-19 has posed.

*The School Leadership Pathway* programme provides accredited leadership development, in the form of a National Professional Qualification, for teachers looking to progress into middle or senior leadership. It is a unique qualification, centred around effectively countering the challenges within each participant's school. 90% of those who complete the Pathway feel confident in their ability to implement changes which would improve their schools.

# 2020 Expenditure





## *Trustees*

*Yan Huo*

*Xue Fang*

*Philip J. Michaels*

*Sam Lowe*

## *Team*

*CEO*

Rebecca Stewart

*CFO*

Zoe Clements

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Sam Wildsmith

*If you have any questions about the Huo Family Foundation, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.*



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