

PRESS RELEASE: 14th April 2022

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Third Space Learning welcomes a new Board Director

Third Space Learning (registered as Virtual Class Ltd), an accredited Tutor Partner in the DfE's National Tutoring Programme and the UK's largest online provider of maths tutoring for schools, has announced the appointment of James Wharton, Rt Hon Lord Wharton of Yarm, as a non-executive director.

James was a member of Parliament for the constituency of Stockton South from 2010 to 2017 and is now a member of the House of Lords. Under David Cameron, James served as the Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse from 2015 to 2016 and was then appointed by Theresa May as Minister for Africa in 2016 where he oversaw the government's £5 billion aid programme and had responsibility for global funds. He joined the House of Lords in 2020.

On his appointment to the board, Lord Wharton said: "Third Space Learning is playing a really important role in closing the attainment gap by providing affordable tutoring to children in state schools. Long before the pandemic, the socially focused company was working with schools to widen access to high quality tutoring so that more children, who needed support in maths, could access it. As we move beyond the pandemic, ensuring all children get the support they need to catch up is essential. I'm looking forward to working with Third Space Learning to help them to reach and support as many children as possible."

John Loder, Board Member of Third Space Learning, and Investment Director at Nesta, welcomed James' appointment and said: "I am delighted to welcome James onto the Board at this exciting time for Third Space Learning. The government's investment in the National Tutoring Programme means more children than ever are receiving in-school tutoring support, and the recent schools white paper reinforces the government's long term support for tutoring as a means to closing the attainment gap."

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James' experience and advice will be invaluable in helping us to navigate this increasingly complex environment and work effectively with schools, government and policy advisors to help to close the attainment gap."

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About Third Space Learning

Third Space Learning was established in 2013 to help tackle the maths attainment gap by providing online one-to-one maths tuition to pupils in English state schools. They have delivered over 1.4 million sessions to more than 115,000 pupils, of whom just over half have been eligible for Pupil Premium.

Building on the success of their tutoring model in thousands of schools across the country, Third Space Learning was selected as an accredited Tutor Partner in the DfE's National Tutoring Programme. In 2020/21 they delivered 353,224 one to one maths sessions to 31,122 pupils across 1,457 schools in England.

Third Space Learning's model seeks to increase schools' access to specialist maths tutors by recruiting and training STEM graduates and undergraduates in India and Sri Lanka. Tutors complete an intensive training programme before they begin delivering sessions, and also receive weekly CPD to provide a supportive focus on quality and development.

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This international approach to providing high quality tutoring enables Third Space Learning to provide maths tuition at a price schools can afford, and at a scale that can support the large number of pupils in need of extra help, and via an online programme that is designed to easily integrate one-to-one tuition with class teaching strategies.

For more information visit: <https://thirdspacelearning.com/about/>

For recent research on Third Space Learning and the Maths attainment gap, do see:

- [Closing the maths attainment gap through one-to-one tutoring - global solution](#) - Institute of Development Studies
- [A Space for Maths: Exploring the needs for Maths tutoring and the potential role for Third Space Learning](#) - The Centre for Education and Youth