



Medical support transforming lives



## **The Victoria Foundation is proud to have awarded a grant of £21,000 towards a much-needed accessible minibus for Strathmore School.**

**The grant was possible through funds raised at TVF's annual ball including £16,430 from the proceeds of the main auction and donations, and £4,570 of the funds TVF received through being one of the beneficiary charities of Petersham Open Gardens 2021.**

*Find out more about TVF's Special Wheels Appeal for the accessible minibus [https://youtu.be/DLTLdZFv\\_7I](https://youtu.be/DLTLdZFv_7I)*

*"We are so thankful to The Victoria Foundation for pledging a fantastic donation of over £21,000, ..., to help us achieve the goal of purchasing a new fully-accessible minibus – we simply wouldn't be able to fund a minibus with the specification requirements on our own. We are certain that the new minibus will make a real difference to our young people's lives and to the way we educate and enrich our curriculum along with their learning experience, social development, and well-being. It is so important that our children and young adults access the community and we are absolutely driven to get them out into the community so that they can transfer the life-skills which they learn in the classroom on a daily basis into real-life situations which ultimately encourages their independence. On behalf of the whole Strathmore School community, I'd like to say an enormous "thank you" to The Victoria Foundation and its supporters for their generous grant towards our new school minibus.*

**– Sarah Hurtado, Acting Headteacher**

Strathmore is a special school for children and young people aged 4 -19 with severe and complex learning difficulties including those with an additional diagnosis of autism and/or physical/sensory disabilities.

Strathmore's aim is to ensure that learners leave the school as independent as they can be and we place huge value on ensuring visibility and participation in the wider community. Strathmore's current minibus, which is more than 12 years old, is no longer fit for purpose as it cannot be used within the ULEZ which limits its usefulness and has started to cost significant sums in terms of servicing. The new minibus, to be used across all four school campuses, will be a 17-seater and fully accessible by means of a tail ramp with space for a wheelchair occupant - this will enable a full class of children and young adults with teaching assistants to go out on journeys together in one bus which will meet the needs of all learners and help to provide the rich and varied cultural, sporting and artistic experiences which the learners of Strathmore both enjoy and thrive on.

**JANUARY 2023**