

Unlock: 6th Form Accelerator



Why?

All students have an ability. All students gain knowledge. The problem is that students often think that they are at a disadvantage to students who have gone to 'better' schools.

Our 6th form accelerator helps to bridge the gap. We give students the skills and confidence to realise themselves that there is nothing to stop them from achieving their goals whatever these may be, or whatever their background may be.

Logistics and timing dictate that numbers on each course are limited to 12 student together with two school staff.

In Brief

- Two and a quarter days student time
- Each course run in small groups (max 12)
- Students meet at least 12 influential leaders
- Tailored to specific student and school needs

What the School gets

- Inspirational talk for whole 6th Form
- Expanded business contacts
- Potential for sponsorship opportunities from hosts
- Knowledgeable ambassadors for the school

Key Learning Outcomes

- Self-confidence & self awareness
- Interviewing skills and opportunities to use them
- Developing and using their own network
- Communication & questioning
- Responsibility, teamwork and resilience

Achieved by Students

- First entrants to Oxbridge accepted
- Increased numbers accepted at Russell Group
- Many Head Boys & Head Girls from course graduates
- Exam grades higher than forecast
- Student instigated work experience

What People Say

"This is an excellent opportunity. It's been a brilliant 3 weeks; quite intense, quite short but a really effective and high impact programme to run with 6th Form which has been brilliant. Thank you very much."

Head of 6th Form, Surrey

"It wasn't just enjoyment, it's the fact it opened so many doors in my brain about what I could do. Now I'm able to think about things and I'm going to use the doors." Year 12 student, Sutton

"This [programme] has been very helpful in realising my potential and what I want to do later in life"

Year 12 student, South London

6th Form Accelerator: The Process



Setting the scene



Scene Setting / Inspiration

- One hour (or one lesson period) inspirational presentation for the entire 6th form, or year group, from which 12 participants have been selected. The presentation focuses on opportunities and how to make the most of them.
- One to one interviews (10 mins) with each of the participants selected by the school (plus up to another 5 students) to prepare them for the programme and give them first-hand experience of intense interviews.
- Diary Room for each participant (where they talk about themselves and what they want to achieve) - which we use for selecting Immersion hosts.

"[Our students] have seen and experienced things they would otherwise not have had the opportunity to do. They have also had the chance to work outside their comfort zones, and let's really hope that this will lead to them overcoming the complex barriers that some of them face." Deputy Head, London



Experiencing



Immersion

- Visit five carefully curated decision makers from different backgrounds and activities: each has agreed to spend up to one hour enabling participants to find out about their businesses or operations and about their careers and decisions made.
- Participants gain knowledge and experience of talking to and with successful people and engage in far reaching discussions. Each participant will get the experience of presenting back to one decision maker what has been learned.
- Participants' mindsets are challenged throughout the day as they discover what others have achieved and the way in which they've gone about it.

"The Immersion Day was brilliant, it was...absolutely amazing! It was fun, it was helpful...it's made me think, it's made my brain work."

"I've decided to modify my initial career path through meetings with immersion hosts: from being a pure scientist I now want to engage in cellular research"



Validating: consolidating

Validating

- Participants engage in one to one conversations with up to seven carefully curated local business leaders, each of whom has the ability to 'make things happen'.
- Students are prepared through intensive 'lift message' and presentation training. They rehearse their own introduction statements to identify where a validation guest might assist by making introductions or offering advice.
- Over 50% of participants enthuse validation hosts to the extent that they organise their own work experience or meetings in these sessions.
- Participants then rehearse how to train other students (and staff) in their schools.
- Participants record their progress in the diary room.

Participants gain first hand knowledge of successful organisations and their leaders, learn that many had to cope with rejection, and gain the experience of influencing local decision makers. This combination of knowledge and skills, coupled with having a network dramatically increases participants' ability to seek out and take advantage of opportunities they create for themselves.