

Fostering Collaboration Across a Multi Academy Trust Through Mentoring: Brigantia Learning Trust



The Brigantia Learning Trust Mentoring project, in partnership with HeppSY, ran for the first time during the summer term of 2022. The programme brought together mentors and students from across three of the Trust's institutions: Hinde House Academy, Yewlands Academy and Longley Park Sixth Form, in order to foster more collaboration and inspire students.

The Scheme

The scheme aimed to use mentors from the Trust's college to inspire the younger students to apply for further education at the sixth form and then ultimately to apply for higher education once their studies were finished. Mentors were selected from Longley Park Sixth Form and were allocated to small groups of students at Hinde House and Yewlands Academy.

The programme was overseen by HeppSY Higher Education Engagement Assistant (EA), Audie O'Donnell, who trained the mentors on coaching and mentoring techniques. The mentors were then assigned to small groups of students from years nine and ten at the two schools. Both the mentors and younger students were carefully selected by Audie and colleagues from the schools and sixth form.

The content of the scheme was split into two sessions, the first in the first half of the summer term, and the second in the second half, both taking place at Longley Park Sixth Form to allow the younger students to experience a further education environment.



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During the sessions a presentation was delivered by HeppSY's EA, Audie on topics including:

- Seeing Your Future Self
- Study Skills
- Revision

These topics were chosen to facilitate discussion around higher education plans and career progression, and to get them thinking about their next steps. Mentors sat with their small groups to help guide conversation, share experience, provide support and to act as role models. The sessions were designed to provide not only knowledge and skills, but also to be an inspiration to the younger students.



Impact

The project aimed not only to inspire the mentees to apply and progress to Longley Park Sixth Form and give them the opportunity to apply for higher education further down the line, but also to increase the skills and confidence of the mentors, giving them additional material for personal statements as well as personal growth.

Discussing the impact of the programme, Audie said:

"I think the project went well, it achieved what we set out to do in terms of fostering more collaboration and allowing additional liaison activity between the trust. The students seemed to enjoy the project and buy into its principles. It was great to see the Longley Park Sixth Form mentors work with the mentees from the trust secondary schools, who were ultimately the key reason behind the sessions going well."

Due to the success of the pilot, there are plans for the scheme to run each academic year. The model will be updated based on learning of what worked, and upscaled to have a wider impact and target more students. This year the programme is running with Hinde House only due to recruitment and a robust evaluation is planned to further see impact.