

The Chrysalis Newsletter

Spring 2014

The Chrysalis Partnership of 26 schools from across the boroughs of Haringey, Islington, Camden, Ealing, Newham and Barnet has been built upon a common sense that there is not enough genuine subject-specific extension work for the brightest pupils nor support for, and shared expertise in, applications to selective universities. The partnership has developed considerably over the past two years, not just in its size, but in support for cooperative activity and sharing at many different levels.

The initial focus of the partnership remains the Chrysalis Scheme, an ambitious project to bring a university access scheme to gifted

and talented cohorts from across the London boroughs of Haringey and Camden. Pupils are invited to engage in a programme of dedicated activities, the centerpiece of which is an intensive four-day summer school. The week involves: subject-specific tutorials given by teachers in affiliated schools; expert and inspiring lectures; visits from admissions tutors and university ambassadors, and undergraduate mentoring.



Chrysalis Summer Schools



YEAR 12

This year, 90 students were registered for the four-day Year 12 programme which consisted of subject-specific tutorials including: English, mathematics, biology, chemistry, geography, history, art, economics, politics, philosophy and French and a series of workshops dealing with presentation skills and interview preparation. As usual, there was a series of UCAS seminars covering the whole university admissions' process, from choosing institutions and courses to an individual 'mock' interview and seminars given by representatives from Oxford and Cambridge universities. Student comments included:

A very influential and informative four days. Fariborz Karimi (Drayton Manor School)

The most fun four days in the holiday. The information delivered was something that could be used for a lifetime. Beatrice Okankwo (London Academy of Excellence)

I didn't expect it to have been this great. All the members of staff were fantastic, especially tutor Patrick. I found learning history enjoyable and fun, it is where my heart is. I have made up my mind. Sochimika Ikpa (Greig City Academy)

I came thinking this was going to be dull but was proven wrong and I loved every moment of it. Celine Henry (Greig City Academy)

An inspirational journey that gives you a valuable experience and takes you out of your shell. Lauren Kellman (Haringey Sixth Form Centre)

It was amazing, to dig deeper into a subject, excellent to improve on valuable life skills and gain invaluable UCAS tips. Gaifang Li (Henrietta Barnett School)

An extremely enjoyable experience – inspirational and informative. I would definitely do it again. Mariam Idrissi (St Mary Magdalene Academy)

Even better than I expected, it was an amazing opportunity. Shaybah Aktar (Acland Burghly School)

Challenging but I had lots of fun. I am really glad that I did it. Joseph Sim (Alexandra Park School)

The tutorials and teacher James have really fuelled my passion for economics and strengthened my want to study at uni. Lule Halimi (Parliament Hill School)

Make it longer. Lauren Wirrich (La Swap)

The tutorials were great and the art teacher gave a lot of support. Howard Barugahare (St Thomas More School)

The tutorials were inspirational. Umra Hayat (Hornsey Sixth Form College)

The tutor was nice and the tutorial was informative. The theory work was a bit challenging but this motivated me to work harder. Haajarah Malek (St Angela's And St Bonaventure's)

Interesting and a good lead up to A2. Useful and enjoyable, the staff were very good. Ryan Headlam (Regents High School)

The subject tutorials were my favourite because they were interesting and the teaching was very good. I also feel better prepared for the school year. Tom Fordwoh (Fortismere)

YEAR 10

The Year 10 programme attracted 45 pupils where the aim was to raise the aspirations of the students through subject-specific tutorials in mathematics, English, economics, science or philosophy. There was also a series of motivational workshops and an interview at which the pupils were able to discuss their future intentions. Feedback from this summer school included:

Amazing fun. Janelle Williams (Gladesmore Community School)

A great way to meet new people and possibly life changing. Throughout the academic tutorial experiences the people helping me have made me realise the things that I have to do in order to achieve my dream future. Ngocanh Tran (Kingsford Community School)

This has been amazing and I've met some awesome people. Petrina Welbeck (St Mary Magdalene Academy)

This experience was surprising as I didn't think that I would enjoy it this much. It's opened my eyes to myself. Mofe Adefolaju (Kingsford Community School)

It was really interesting (philosophy) to speak about topics we wouldn't normally think of talking about. Eniola Shittu (St Thomas More School)

The tutorials were very interesting and informative as well as being fun and engaging. They were different to what we would normally do in school and definitely added to my scientific knowledge. Serens Millen (Alexandra Park School)

It was enjoyable and creative. Fahima Hoque (Regent High School)

Very interesting. The tutorial showed me the importance of 'critical thinking' and the brain teaser reminded me that any problems in life can be solved with effort. Derick Armah (William Ellis School)

It has really benefitted me. I am definitely coming back in year 12 as I will probably need another motivational boost by them. Markela Zeneli (Gladesmore Community School)

The sky is the limit. Summer school has taught me that. Eve Bramley (Alexandra Park School)



Chrysalis Partnership Interview Evening

Students from 17 schools who were applying for Oxford, Cambridge or medical school were given a formal practice interview on Thursday 14 November in order to help them prepare for the real event. Many of the 87 applicants had attended the Year 12 Summer School and after a 20-minute interview each student was given some advice on how to improve their chances of success. Feedback was also sent back to the Head of Sixth Form at each school.

Chrysalis for Looked After Children

Over the past twelve months, Highgate has been working with the Virtual Heads of seven London boroughs to develop a Chrysalis University Access Programme for Looked After Children. This programme would start when the pupils are in Year 6 and continue with numerous interventions up to Year 13. Consultation has taken place with Professor Sonia Jackson at the Institute of Education and Michael Allerud at

the Department of Education and the scheme has the support of the University of Cambridge, London School of Economics, University College London, King's College London and the University of Hertfordshire as educational advisors who have offered their facilities to the project. Four events have already taken place and more are planned for this year.

Year 10 Taster Visit to Oxford University

On Friday 21 June 2013, 42 Year 10 students from schools in Haringey spent a day at Christ Church as guests of Oxford University. They attended a talk about obtaining a place at the university, met a selection of current students, and had a tour of Christ Church before lunch in the dining hall. The day concluded with a visit to the Oxford Museum of Natural History for a hands-on session with a variety of exhibits.

Chrysalis Oxbridge Conference

This is a new event which was trialled for the first time this year. The aim is to act as a catalyst, at an early stage, to pupils thinking of applying to either Oxford or Cambridge. There will be talks from admissions tutors, opportunities to meet current students and an opportunity to plan a strategy to maximise each individual's chance of success.

The Chrysalis Partnership is a former DCSF initiated project, now funded by Highgate School, involving Future Foundations and the following schools:

Highgate School, Fortismere School, Alexandra Park School, Hornsey School for Girls, Greig City Academy, St Thomas More Catholic School, Gladesmore Community School, Woodside High School, Highgate Wood School and Performing Arts College, Hampstead School, Regents High School, Parliament Hill School, Haverstock School, La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School, Kingsford Community School, William Ellis School, St Angela's Ursuline School, Haringey Sixth Form Centre, Drayton Manor High School, The Henrietta Barnett School, Crest Boys' Academy, Crest Girls' Academy, St Mary Magdalene Academy, Acland Burghley School, Northumberland Park School and Maria Fidelis Catholic School

Diary dates: Chrysalis Partnership Programme 2014

Chrysalis Development Meeting	13 February	16.30
Careers Fair	20 March	18.00
Chrysalis Maths Revision Class (Year 11)	10-11 April	09.30
Chemistry and Physics Conference (Year 12)	19 June	All day
Oxford University Visit (Year 10)	19 June	All day
Chrysalis Summer School Barbecue (Year 12)	25 June	17.00
Summer School (Year 10)	26-27 August	09.00
Summer School (Year 12)	26-29 August	09.00
Oxford and Cambridge Preparation Classes	September	Various
Chrysalis Interview Evening (Year 13)	13 November	16.30
Chrysalis Oxbridge Conference	13 January 2015	16.30