

## East London Connect 2017 Review

This year has been an incredible year for East London connect. In our inaugural year, we have gone from simply an idea to helping so many young people. In February, our university mentoring scheme was launched to help black and Ethnic minorities aspire and attend Russell group universities. With the help of 13 dedicated and inspiring mentors from the African Caribbean Society at University College London(UCL), we have worked with 30 year 10 pupils from East London Science School in Stratford. The scheme is already showing some encouraging signs. Our evaluation data showed we are targeting the right demographic; around 30 % of the pupils have parents who did not attend university, but the children would like to attend a Russell group university.

Therefore, East London Connect can provide vital support and advice to make an informed decision about higher education. Also, roughly 20% of pupils had no prior knowledge of Russell group universities before starting our mentoring scheme. As a result of our mentoring scheme they would now consider applying for a Russell group university. I would like to thank all the mentors who have helped educate pupils on higher education. You are helping us lay important foundations for our 3-year strategy.

This year our aim was to help build aspiration for Russell group universities. In 2018, our focus is to help pupils achieve the GCSEs required for A levels and university. In 2019, we will be specifically offering UCAS and university advice.

Our career day for year 9 pupils at Sarah Bonnell school was equally a great success. We spoke to around 240 girls, with 50% learning about a new industry. I am grateful for our female volunteers for making the event a success. A special thank you to Korede and Muriel, our Trustees, who also volunteered.

In November, we also organised a science related careers trip for year 9 pupils at East London Science School. The pupils experienced a science lecture and career talk at Imperial College London. The event was very positively received and we look forward to organising more trips next year

We have some exciting career events lined up in the first quarter of 2018 including a trip to Cambridge, presentation and networking sessions to develop important employability skills. We are providing information on apprenticeship opportunities.

I would like to say a massive thank you to the Trustees for their unconditional and constant support this year, East London Connect would be nothing without you.

Thank you to everyone who has helped or supported East London Connect this year.

Richard

Founder East London Connect

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