



Students in Classrooms

Student Profile

Inspire... Experience... Discover

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Mentor

"I became a mentor because I wanted to try something different and work within a secondary school. Working on a one-to-one basis appealed to me as I thought I could get to know individual students and help them develop.

I helped my mentees with a range of activities from schoolwork, revision, time management, budgeting and personal statements to the pros and cons of university. I was flexible with my session plans, as I wanted the mentees to feel that the sessions were beneficial to their needs. We decided together the topics to cover every week. I had to be efficient about sessions, sending the pupils reminder emails as well as reflective emails to try to encourage feedback for further development.

The scheme influenced me personally in different ways. Some mentees were very responsive and enjoyed the sessions. This was mutual and I happily put more time and effort into our interactions. These mentees increased my confidence within the role and helped me to develop my professional communication skills. In contrast, others were a lot less receptive and reluctant to make time for sessions. Rather than shy away from this challenge I was determined to encourage them in becoming involved by thinking of innovative ways to make the sessions more interesting. I also needed to help them with time management as they often forgot about meetings.

The result was that I saw very positive changes in my mentees: I watched them develop their skills within their subjects and gain the confidence to exceed. Some made decisions about what they wanted to do in terms of careers and personal goals whilst others became more definitive and confident having found clear aims for the future.

I enjoyed my role as a mentor and felt I achieved personal goals by helping mentees make informed decisions about their future. My biggest success during the scheme was helping one mentee in his decision to continue into Higher Education. This was a long process exploring different routes, places and courses so that the mentee could make a fully informed decision. The mentee emailed me to show their appreciation and thanked me for the help I had given - I was pleased knowing that I had made a difference.

I would definitely recommend the opportunity to other students. I genuinely enjoyed mentoring - it is worthwhile and beneficial for all involved. Even at the most basic level it helps you learn how to communicate with schools and arrange meetings, increasing interpersonal skills. Not only does it look good on your C.V. but it also gives you a welcome change from university work."

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