



Students in Classrooms Student Profile

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Mentor and previous mentee

I had a mentor through Nottingham Trent University when I was studying at a local school. My mentor supported me on a one-to-one basis with subjects that I was struggling with and most importantly helping me research higher education courses. My teachers tried to motivate me and recommended that I aim for University but before I met Jenny, it was not something I had seriously considered. Coming from a challenging background, I had no experience or knowledge of higher education and there were many distractions in school – I did not imagine University to be a realistic goal. Jenny discussed University with me and explained how it was open to people from all backgrounds.

I would certainly recommend mentoring to others. A mentor is not another teacher – they are a role model, can relate to you on a personal level and become a friend whilst giving the extra support you need to achieve your full potential.

I am now in my 2nd year at University and am taking part in the Students in Classrooms Mentoring. It seemed the perfect opportunity to gain experience of teaching and develop my skills as well as providing pupils with the same support that I received. I hope that I can have an impact by raising aspirations and helping my mentees become aware of the opportunities available to them. They need to know that they can go further than just having a job after their education – they can build a career.

I met my mentees for the first time last week in my old school and it was a strange but lovely experience. It brought back memories of my own experiences and how mentoring benefited me. My advice to pupils who are considering having a mentor would be to go for it! Mentors can be incredibly important, supportive and useful. Make the most of the opportunity and do not be afraid to ask questions. It does not matter what area you come from, how wealthy you are – if you have the determination and put the time and effort in, you can go to University and you can do well."

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