



The
Brilliant
Club

Press Release 19/06/17

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Impact of The Brilliant Club praised in Ofsted reports

- Challenging academic programme “complements” work carried out in 550 schools around the country
- Charity cited as an effective use of pupil premium in targeting the needs of disadvantaged students

The work of award-winning education charity The Brilliant Club has been described as “immensely beneficial” by Ofsted.

The commendation is further recognition of the organisation’s impact, which has worked with 10,400 pupils across England, Scotland and Wales in 2016/17.

Earlier this year an independent control group evaluation by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) showed that pupils on The Brilliant Club’s Scholars Programme “were significantly more likely to secure a place at a highly-selective university”. *

The charity’s innovative model mobilises the PhD community to share its academic expertise with non-selective state schools, working either as part-time tutors or full-time teachers

During recent inspections, the work of The Brilliant Club was cited in several Ofsted reports from some of the 550 schools around the UK where the organisation delivers The Scholars Programme.

Participation in the programme was also described as being an enjoyable “challenge” by some; while others noted how The Scholars Programme complemented the good work being carried out in schools.

Participating schools included Halewood Academy on Merseyside, rated “Good” in their May 2017 Ofsted inspection report.

Their report stated that: **“Membership of the “Brilliant Club” has been immensely beneficial and a number of more-able pupils have had the support of tutors from prestigious universities to coach them and raise their aspirations”**.

At the “Good” rated Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy in Hackney, East London, The Brilliant Club was praised for helping students **“raise their aspirations regarding their future”**.

“The Brilliant Club does a great job in opening students’ eyes to how far they can go and taking away the fear of misconceptions about university,” says Mossbourne principal Nick Rutherford. **“Our students have got so much more out of the programme, from new study skills to higher aspirations.”**

Students at the George Spencer Academy in Nottingham – rated by Ofsted as “excellent” and praised for its “innovative and exciting” curriculum – told Ofsted inspectors that they had enjoyed the challenge of working with PhD tutors through The Brilliant Club with one adding **“This was the best thing that ever happened to me”**.

This is not the first time that the work of The Brilliant Club has been recognised by Ofsted. In a 2015 update to **“The most able students: are they doing as well as they should in our non-selective**

secondary schools?" (2013), The Brilliant Club was cited as an effective use of Pupil Premium to target the needs of disadvantaged most-able students.

Students reported that access to the Brilliant Club **"had been successful in motivating them to aspire to gaining places at top universities"**.

In addition, the report noted that university tutors were positive about schools which are engaging with widening participation schemes such as The Brilliant Club to bridge the gap in the quality of guidance about courses and universities.

The Brilliant Club was founded in 2012 by two classroom teachers. By 2021 it aims to support 6,500 pupils from under-represented groups to progress to highly-selective universities. The Brilliant Club's Co-CEO, Dr Chris Wilson comments:

"I am very pleased to see that the work of The Brilliant Club is being recognised by Ofsted in this way. This, in addition to the findings of the UCAS research earlier this year, further validates the vital role we can play in increasing the number of pupils from under-represented backgrounds that progress to highly-selective universities.

"However, we are conscious of the work that remains to be done to support pupils from under-represented communities to succeed and to improve social mobility in the UK"

Notes for Editors

1. Dr Chris Wilson (Co-CEO) is available for interviews on request. To arrange interviews please email maddy.maloney@thebrilliantclub.org. Photos are also available.
2. The Brilliant Club exists to increase the number of pupils from under-represented backgrounds that progress to highly-selective universities. The Brilliant Club runs two programmes:
 - **The Scholars Programme**, which recruits PhD researchers, trains them as university access professionals and places them as tutors in schools to deliver academically rigorous programmes to small groups of high potential pupils.
 - **Researchers in Schools**, which recruits PhD graduates, places them as trainee teachers in schools and supports them to develop as excellent teachers and research leaders committed to closing the gap in attainment and university access.
3. The Brilliant Club's Annual Conference is taking place on [Saturday 8th of July at King's College London](#). This year's programme includes unconscious bias training for all delegates, research from King's College London on the Travelling community and a range of workshops, including innovation in recruitment, led by the Social Mobility Foundation.
4. *Click [HERE](#) to read the full details of the UCAS Control Group Evaluation

5. Full Ofsted reports are available here

Mossbourne Victoria Park Academy – Page 6

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/140210>

Halewood Academy – Page 4

<http://www.halewoodacademy.co.uk/assets/News/10020363-Halewood-Academy-Published-Report.pdf>

George Spencer Academy – Page 4

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/136291>

Fulwood Academy – Page 6

http://www.fulwoodacademy.co.uk/files/2714/7989/4992/Fulwood_Academy_10025752_Final_PDF.pdf

Hethersett Academy – Page 6

<http://www.inspirationtrust.org/attachments/download.asp?file=69&type=pdf>

Hatch End High School – Page 5

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/files/2294761/urn/137204.pdf>

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Images

Logo:

Minimum sizing

Print: 1.8cm x 1.8cm

Web: 180px x 180px

