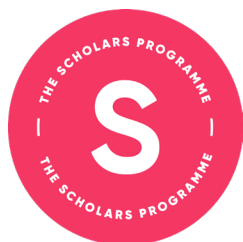


# The Brilliant Club Case Study



**Tutor Name:**  
Matthew Dwyer

**PhD Research Area:**  
Theoretical Chemistry

**PhD University:**  
The University of Sheffield

**Tutor since:** February 2018

**Brilliant Club Programme:**  
The Scholars Programme



## Which schools have you taught at?

The Birley Academy, Winterhill School, Outwood Academy Adwick, Outwood Academy Carlton, De Warenne Academy.

## What is your Scholars Programme course title?

The Quantum World Around Us.

## What made you want to apply to be a Scholars Programme tutor?

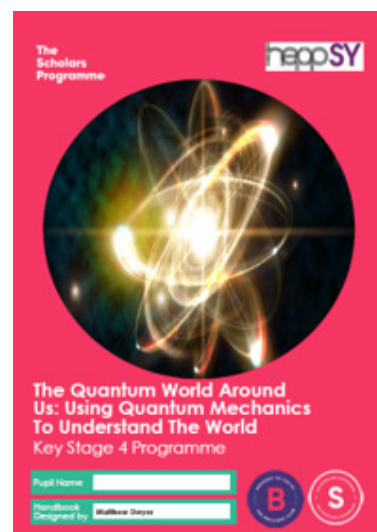
As our society is unequal, with this inequality being seen in the education system, and resulting in students from outside major cities having fewer chances than their state school counterparts in cities before even focusing on those from selective schools. The Scholars Programme offered me an opportunity to help make a small change in this problem and give gifted pupils from low-attainment backgrounds the encouragement and skills to apply to good universities.

## What has been the most rewarding moment of your Scholars Programme placement so far?

During the placements, there have been points where the pupils have taken over the teaching of the tutorials, working through problems together or giving presentations to the rest of the group. This is great to see, as they always looked excited by the science, and are driving solving complex problems without much input from me.

## Tell me about being a Scholars Programme tutor. How has it helped in your development as a research student?

The Scholars Programme improved my time management and public engagement skills. Both of which are important for being a successful research student, but are not always developed during the Doctoral Development Programme.



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## What have you gained from being part of the Scholars Programme community of researchers?

As there are so many tutors that return because of how positive their experience of the programme is, you end up catching up with people during the training weekends and launch trips. Because everyone comes from a different academic background, you end up supporting each other through different hurdles in a PhD but without the technical baggage, which can be really liberating.



## How has The Scholars Programme affected the way you approach undergraduate teaching?

The training that you get on the training weekends has been incredibly valuable. This, coupled with the experience of actually developing my own course and assignments, has allowed me to develop my own teaching skills. This has then been applied to the undergraduate teaching labs, where I have developed in-lab tutorials to give to the undergraduates, to improve understanding in areas where students were struggling.

## How do you think you have made a difference to pupils as a Scholars Programme tutor?

I hope that I have encouraged them to consider studying science at university and given them some of the skills they will need to apply to top universities.

## Do you have any advice for someone looking to apply to work as a Scholars Programme tutor?

I would strongly recommend that they do it, as they get the experience of designing their own course, and get valuable experience of taking the lead in the delivery of the programme. This isn't something that you get normally during a PhD and was a great experience.

THE SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

To find out more about how you could become a Scholars Programme tutor, please visit our website at [www.thebrilliantclub.org](http://www.thebrilliantclub.org)