



BATLEY GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Batley, West Yorkshire

**Lead Teacher: Angela
Jones**

Role: Aspirations Lead

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL'S EXPERIENCE OF THE PROGRAMME?

I thought it was going to be more work for me but its actually been incredibly smooth and very easy to implement. The tutor was absolutely fabulous, the course – "How do we make drugs safe?", was so topical. All the girls were so impressed that she works trying to find a cure for childhood cancer, she knew just how to draw information out of them and was really reassuring.

It's very rare for any of our students to go outside of the local area and study away from home. So, Sheffield is a University they wouldn't have visited. It really made the students think. It was such an eye-opener for them that university is about so much more than the course; the buildings, the library provision, societies - how important it is that there are all these spaces for them.

The two student ambassadors were Muslim women; our school is about 90% Muslim so they were able to relate to the girls and talk about their social life at University. This was a whole different part of University that our girls hadn't thought of. They were perfect ambassadors for that day. They didn't accept the girls saying "well I'm not going to leave home"; they weren't fazed and went on to talk about why they loved Sheffield University.

WHY DO YOU RUN THE PROGRAMME AT BATLEY GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL?

We first heard about the programme through our MP Tracy Brabin, who emailed the Head Teacher, she had been to Batley Grammar which is one of the schools in our MAT that does it, so it was an MP doing good work! The programme forms part of our school policy of stretch and challenge and is useful for attracting pupils to the sixth form. The Scholars Programme shows what our students can do if they are given the opportunity to really push themselves. They get recognition of their work and they can demonstrate that they can work at that level.

WHAT OUTCOMES HAVE YOU SEEN FOR THE PUPILS TAKING PART IN THE PROGRAMME?

Improved organisation skills through organising their own time and meeting deadlines. Teachers noticed a massive difference to their confidence. Many of our girls are quite sheltered and will be the first generation going to university. This is their first step into the unknown, it's given them the resilience to say; "If this is what I have to do at university, I can do it and I'm not going to give up at the first sign that its difficult". I am marking the personal statement drafts at the moment and the 8 girls have all got their Scholars Programme experience front and centre. They all got a lot out of the course, they really enjoyed the tutorials, which fed into what they do in all their lessons where they could demonstrate what they had learnt.

Click [here](#) to enquire about running The Scholars Programme in your school.