



# SARAH BONNELL SCHOOL

Stratford, London

Lead Teacher: Joe Begley

Role: Assistant Head  
Teacher



## WHY DO YOU RUN THE SCHOLARS PROGRAMME?

One of the school's strategic priorities is to challenge the 'most able' students, nurturing an environment of academic excellence and intellectual curiosity. We want to ensure that all students are challenged, and have high aspirations, making sure that the highest academically performing students aspire to top universities, and understand the importance of intellectual pursuit, rigour and independence. We believe that The Scholars Programme is one key way in which we can achieve this, and is why we are keen to involve as many students as possible.

## HOW DO YOU USE THE IMPACT REPORT WHICH IS PRODUCED AT THE END OF THE PROGRAMME?

It has been shared with progress leaders, who then communicate with students and parents, and continue to track their academic development. We also use it as a reflection of our provision for pupil premium students, featuring in our annual report. It also contributes to our annual report for CEIAG, and the relevance it has to the Gatsby benchmarks. Through our internal Scholarship programme, we continue the conversation with students about the course, encouraging them to share their experience with others. We have definitely noticed an increased confidence, and an increased awareness of what is required with A Level and University style learning.

## CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE PROGRAMME AND YOUR PUPILS' EXPERIENCE?

The visit to Cambridge University in particular was a brilliant experience for the students, who reported having a great time, and that they felt really inspired. The launch trip really built excitement as well, and I believe that these visits are a really valuable and essential part of the programme, as it suddenly makes these imposing institutions, real, making them seem like aspirational, but realistic future destinations for people from disadvantaged backgrounds such as many of our students.

We thought that the course that the pupils studied this year was really fascinating, and in the sessions that I observed these had certainly triggered some excellent, high level debating. The development in their knowledge of politics and sociological change and phenomena was impressive, and we felt that this was very skillfully managed by Esther our PhD tutor who was really engaging and connected well with the students. All students were incredibly positive about the course, and the experience, and we look forward to continuing the programme with The Brilliant Club in future years.

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