



THE ALBION ACADEMY

Salford, Greater Manchester

Lead Teacher:
Michelle Hall

Role: English Teacher



CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME?

As high-achieving children, being able to sit in a group of just 6 allowed them to formulate ideas and express themselves - this had a noticeable effect on their engagement in other subjects as well. Once they knew what it meant, the tutor having a PhD had an impact, she had a beautiful manner with the children and explained exactly how she's got to where she is. They were in awe of her breadth of knowledge and couldn't believe that you could continue with education to that level.

A lot of our students don't have access to WIFI or devices other than phones to complete their work, so it was a massive achievement for many to be able to submit from home. We had put time in at school to support their writing, so it was great to have so many submit in spite of the challenges.

WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY TRIPS?

They learnt a lot of new information, and were absolutely in awe of the place. Our school is just outside Manchester, but a lot of the children have barely left Salford. So the first thing that they couldn't believe, was that the university campus itself. They kept saying "It's like a city". When they were in the lecture theatre, they couldn't believe that many students could gather and listen together. It was all such a grand scale – it became really aspirational, to the point where they all decided that they were going to go to the University of Sheffield! The accessibility of university was a door that was suddenly opened for them.

One of our students was completely overwhelmed by the whole thing – talking to the student ambassadors he realised that there are so many niche societies and that there are many other people who are interested in the same things and that want to celebrate that rather than do them on their own. That was a big deal for him.

WHY DID THE ALBION ACADEMY DECIDE TO RUN THE PROGRAMME?

I'm a career changer who got into education through Teach First to work particularly in disadvantaged areas and enhance the opportunities for children in those schools. As soon as I found out about the programme, I went straight to the principal to let them know this was something I was really interested in being part of.

The school has been through a number of changes, now that there is a solid staff in place this has allowed for the opportunity to focus on attainment and progress, as well as work engaging with parents and the local community to give the school a better identity in the area. We run the programme with Years 7- 9 who are progressing into their GCSE years, it is the perfect opportunity to prepare them for their options after school and what university life is like.

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