



# Our Year of Impact

The Brilliant Club  
2020/21



\*(including postponed placements from 2019/20)

We mobilise the PhD community to support students who are less advantaged to access the most competitive universities and succeed when they get there.

The Brilliant Club's Year of Impact 2020/21

The 2020/21 academic year was a challenging one for students, teachers and universities, who continue to be affected by disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. There's no doubt that we are living through one of the most difficult times that the education system has ever known. But as I look back on our year at The Brilliant Club, I feel proud of how we have met these challenges and thankful for the communities of teachers, universities and tutors who have supported us this year.

Behind every number on this page is a story.

When you read that we supported **25,751 students** – our largest ever cohort in a single year – know that for each young person who took part, a community of parents, carers, and families supported them to achieve their success.

We would never have been able to reach these students, without the dedicated teachers in **948** schools across the UK who ran our programmes in their schools.

Of course, this would not have been possible without the **1,203** researchers who were driven to tackle educational inequality and worked with us to share their knowledge and passion for learning with less advantaged students.

We would also like to thank our **42** university partners and funders for their continued support and generosity, which have helped us to grow our programmes and work with more young people than ever before.

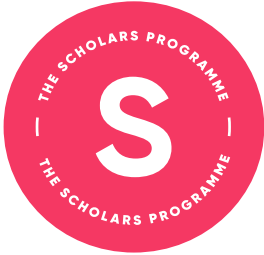
When we look at these numbers, we are reminded of how many people are part of The Brilliant Club. Thank you to everyone who has worked with us over the 2020/21 academic year, and we hope you'll continue to be part of our community in the year ahead.

Anne-Marie Canning MBE  
CEO, The Brilliant Club

Anne-Marie Canning



In 2020/21, we offered three core programmes:



**The Scholars Programme:**  
We train our PhD tutors to deliver The Scholars Programme to small groups of students aged 8-18 in our partner schools across the UK. They share their subject knowledge and passion for learning to help students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university.



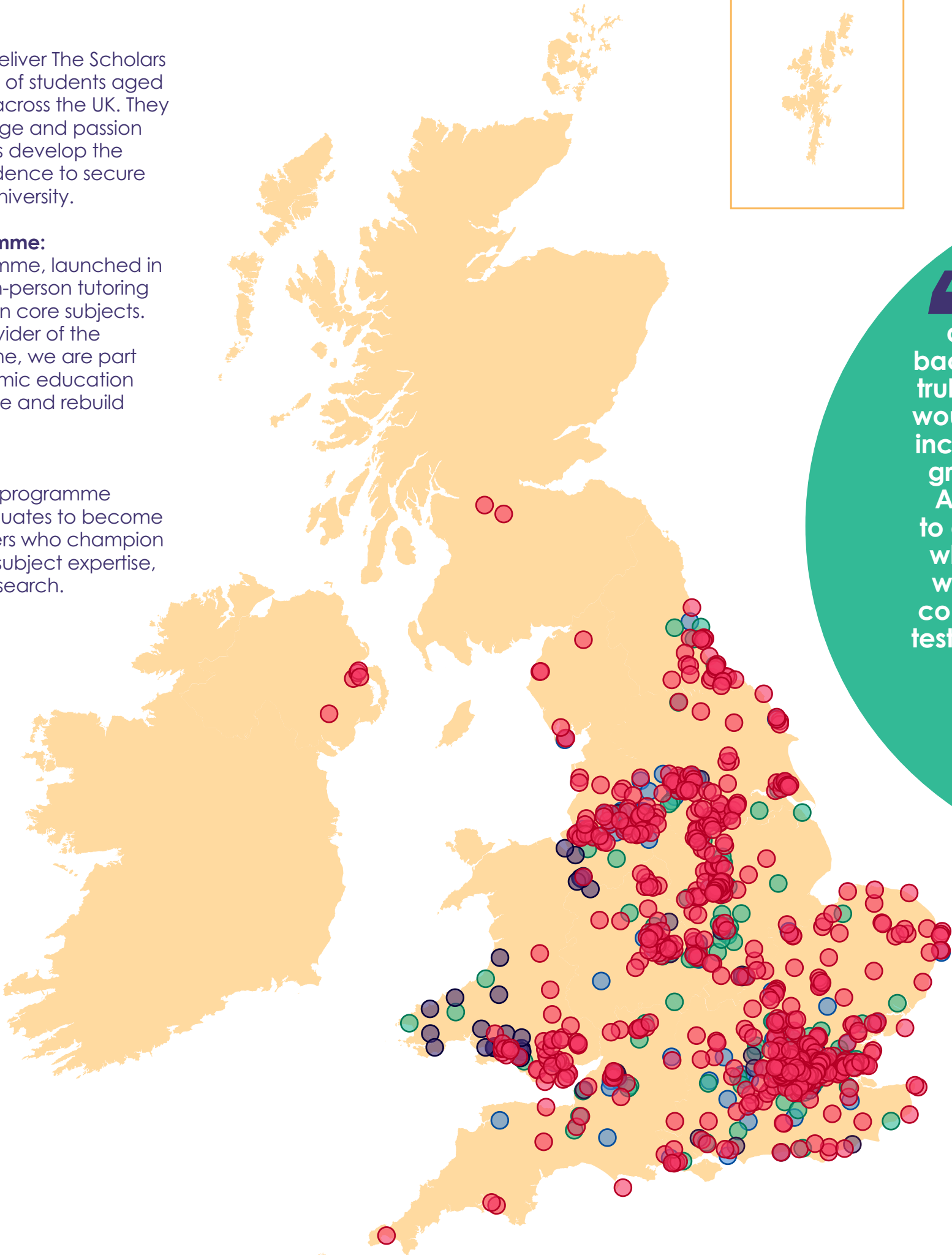
**The Brilliant Tutoring Programme:**  
Our Brilliant Tutoring Programme, launched in 2020, provides online and in-person tutoring to small groups of students in core subjects. As an approved tuition provider of the National Tutoring Programme, we are part of the national post-pandemic education recovery effort to re-engage and rebuild student confidence.



**Researchers in Schools:**  
Our Researchers in Schools programme recruits and trains PhD graduates to become excellent classroom teachers who champion university access, increase subject expertise, and promote education research.

**“ I am so glad that others in my school will now be doing this too because I have gained so much, and picked up lots of skills and advice, but more importantly have experienced a new way of learning. ”**

*Student, Key Stage 4, Gloucestershire*



**“ After never really talking about universities, my son came back from his initial trip to Cambridge truly inspired and announced that he would like to go there. He has worked incredibly hard, received great GCSE grades and is now in his first year of A-levels, where he is learning how to apply for Cambridge. I don't mind where he goes and for him to have worked so hard to even be able to consider applying is amazing and all testament to his hard work, but I really believe that the trip that you took him on made him believe it all possible. ”**

*Parent of a Scholars Programme student, Buckinghamshire*

- The Scholars Programme
- The Brilliant Tutoring Programme
- Researchers in Schools
- Multiple Programmes
- Special Projects



“It made these budding academics feel as if they were fully part of the learning that was taking place and their opinion could be truly heard and valued.”

Teacher, Scotland

## Special Projects

We collaborate with partners to deliver bespoke projects which enable us to reach more students and make a positive impact for university access beyond our core programmes.

This year, we designed and delivered our first ever student transition project. This project is designed to support students in taking the step from school and university, which we know can be challenging. We partnered with Trinity College at the University of Cambridge to offer an exciting two-year programme for 46 pupils from underrepresented backgrounds who are interested in applying to the University of Oxford or Cambridge.

Over the two-years, students will take part in Scholars Programme tutorials, attend an in-person summer school at Trinity College, receive university application mentoring, and engage in preparation sessions so they can prepare for success at university when they arrive.



## Young Trustee

We were proud to have appointed the charity's first Young Trustee to our Board as part of our commitment to put young people's voices at the forefront of our work. Hannah Chukwu, our Young Trustee, works on the Lit in Colour campaign at Penguin Random House and The Runnymede Trust. She recently won the London Book Fair Young Talent Trailblazer Award and is a graduate of the University of Oxford where she worked on the partnership between Worcester College, Oxford and The Brilliant Club. Hannah will share her knowledge and experience to lead our Experience Experts Panel which advises the charity.



Hannah Chukwu  
Young Trustee, The Brilliant Club

“This was a wonderful programme that really gave me an insight into what university life would be like. The assignment producing task was extremely effective to show me what I can do at an early undergrad level.”

Student, Year 12,  
Trinity Transition Project

## Ambassador Programme

We worked with 13 programme alumni as part of our Ambassador Programme. Our ambassadors, who are now at university or recent graduates, support the charity by sharing their own stories and help us to improve our programmes for the next generation of participants. As we move forward, we have begun recruiting more ambassadors, who will support our goal of building our stakeholder communities in the coming years.

“

I did well at school, but at the time, not a lot of pupils were going to prestigious universities. I was on the first cohort of The Brilliant Club... the support I got to broaden my perspectives was massive. The Brilliant Club was really crucial in helping me understand what the university experience would be like and helping me build the confidence that I was academically capable.”

”



Mohamed,  
Brilliant Club Ambassador,  
London School of  
Economics Graduate

## What's next

2020/21 was the last year of our Path to Outcomes strategy, which has guided the charity since 2016. Our impact and reach this year have laid strong foundations for the start of the next five years and our new Join the Club strategy.

Our focus for the future will be on addressing two barriers to educational equality in the UK: **access** and **success**. To meet these challenges, we will support over **100,000 students** through our university access programme, The Scholars Programme, and for the first time, work with over **11,000 undergraduates** to enhance their success at university.

Join  
the  
Club





## Thank you

Our supporters and partners play a vital role in our mission to support students who are less advantaged to access the most competitive universities and succeed when they get there.

We would like to thank everyone who supports the charity, including our partners, organisations, individuals, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

## Supporters

- AKO Foundation
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- The Portal Trust
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- The Taylor Family Foundation
- The Waterloo Foundation
- Thomas Howell's Education Fund for North Wales

## Partners

- Aberystwyth University
- Alliance for Learning
- Ark Teacher Training
- Birmingham City University
- Brunel University London
- Cabot Learning Federation
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff University
- CHASE DTP
- Citizens UK
- East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Opportunity Area
- Falmouth University
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- Hampshire LEARN Scitt
- Harris Federation
- Hartpury University and Hartpury College
- Herts and Bucks TSA
- Imperial College London – Department of Life Sciences
- Kent Academies Network
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- Make Happen Uni Connect
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- Midlands 4 Cities
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- National Online Teacher Training
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- Robert Gordon University
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- SeNSS DTP
- Shaping Futures
- Sheffield Hallam University
- SOAS, University of London
- South Birmingham SCITT
- St George's, University of London
- Swansea University
- SWW DTP
- The Cambridge Partnership
- The Open University
- Trinity College, Cambridge
- United Learning
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- University of Strathclyde
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- University of Warwick
- Unlocked Graduates
- Welsh Government
- Worcester University
- York St John University
- Yorkshire and Humber SCITT

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