The goal
The Trinity Transition Project is a two-year programme designed to support pupils from underrepresented backgrounds in their application and transition to the University of Cambridge or other highly selective universities. It is run collaboratively by Trinity College Cambridge and The Brilliant Club.

What we do
The Trinity Transition Project has three components:

1 - Academic support
Students take part in The Scholars Programme in Year 12 at their school. They then attend a summer school at Trinity College Cambridge. Across the programmes, they learn how university-style teaching works and produce university-style assignments.

2 - University preparation
In the lead up to starting university and during their first term, students receive university preparedness sessions from their Brilliant Club tutor, sessions reflecting on the first two weeks of term, and a celebration event marking the end of the first term at university.

3 - Evaluation
We set up a student outcomes framework and research design for the evaluation of the project. Interim findings are being used to inform programme delivery at each stage of the project. A final report will focus on student outcomes and lessons learned.

The outcome
Students taking part in the programme are supported to develop the relevant skills and knowledge to successfully transition to and succeed at university. Interim analysis shows that students’ confidence in their academic skills has grown. The programme evaluation is key to evidencing and maximising its impact.

Testimonial
"Demonstrating the impact of transition work is multifaceted and The Brilliant Club have provided us with comprehensive, iterative and formative evaluation, to measure our pupils’ self-efficacy, at every stage of the project. Thanks to them, we are constantly monitoring how the project is working, what effect it is having on participants, and how it is influenced by numerous factors. Ultimately, they will provide a summative impact evaluation, to determine whether the university readiness outcomes we measure are linked to our goal of improving underrepresented students’ transition to highly selective higher education institutions."
- Jon Datta, Deputy Head of Widening Participation, University of Cambridge