



The Scholars Programme

Evaluation Update 2024/25 (March 2025)

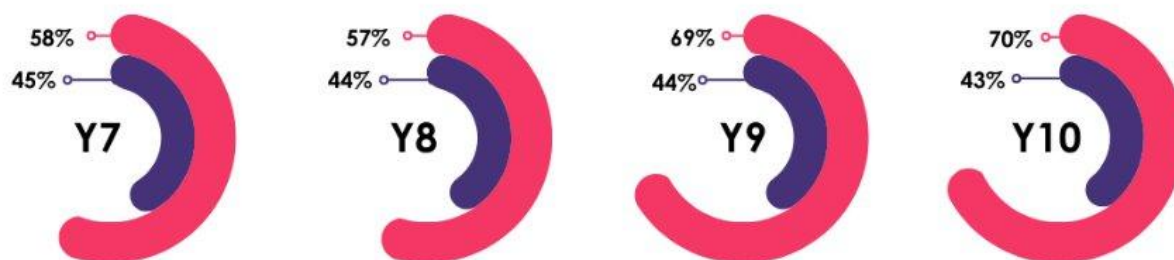
2023 GCSE attainment outcomes

Attainment is the single [biggest predictor](#) of progressing to university and, through our collaboration with the Higher Education Access Tracker ([HEAT](#)), we are able to examine the impact of [The Scholars Programme](#) on GCSE attainment.

Methodology: Using data from HEAT we can compare the percentage of Scholars Programme students achieving a 9-5 in maths and English, with the percentage of students from the same schools achieving a 9-5 in maths and English. Crucially, the analysis accounts for prior attainment at Key Stage 2 to ensure that we are comparing similar groups of students. For the 2023 GCSE update, the sample included 1,355 students who participated in the programme in Year 7, 8, 9 or 10, had middle prior attainment at Key Stage 2 and took their GCSE exams in 2023.

Findings: The findings showed that students who participated in The Scholars Programme in Year 10 were 27 percentage points more likely to achieve a 9-5 in maths and English at GCSE than students within their schools who scored similarly at Key Stage 2. The findings also showed that students who participated in The Scholars Programme in Year 7, 8 or 9 were also more likely to achieve a 9-5 in maths and English at GCSE than students within their schools who scored similarly at Key Stage 2, as shown in the figure below:

Students who did The Scholars Programme in Years 7, 8, 9, or 10 were more likely to achieve a 9-5 in maths and English than students within the same schools who had similar middle prior attainment at Key Stage 2.



Percentage of students who scored 9-5 in maths and English at 2023 GCSEs, with similar middle prior attainment at Key Stage 2

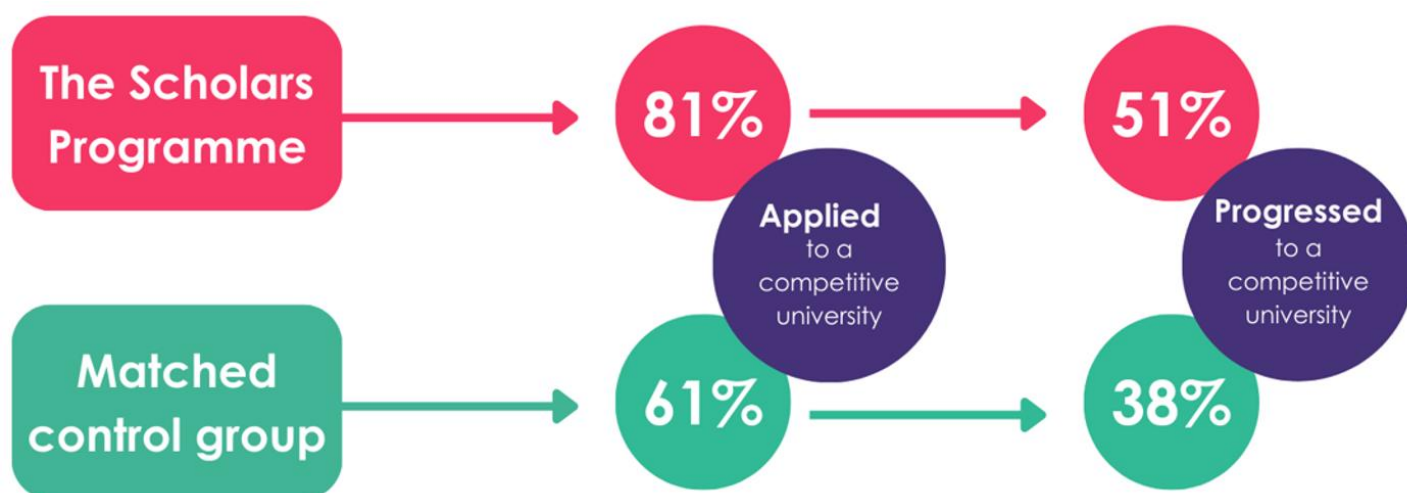
-  Scholars Programme Students
-  Scholars Programme Schools

University progression outcomes

For the last nine years, we have commissioned UCAS, via their [Outreach Evaluator](#) service, to independently evaluate the impact of The Scholars Programme on progression to university. Our latest evaluation is based on students who progressed to university in the Autumn 2024/25 term.

Methodology: UCAS compared the university applications of 1,077 Year 12 students who took part in The Scholars Programme in 2022/23 to a matched control group. UCAS created the comparison group by matching on several key variables, including ethnicity, postcode and GCSE attainment. From this, we can see whether Scholars Programme graduates are more likely to progress to a competitive university than similar students who did not take part in the programme. This type of evidence is considered one of the most robust evaluation methods for understanding causal impact.

Main findings: We found that Year 12 students who complete The Scholars Programme are statistically significantly more likely to apply to and receive an offer from a competitive university than students from similar backgrounds. As a result, they also progress to a competitive university at a higher rate.



Additional findings:

Over **9 in 10** Scholars Programme graduates that applied to university applied to a competitive one.



98% of Pupil Premium students who completed The Scholars Programme in Year 12 and applied to university received at least one offer.



Scholars Programme graduates are nearly **4 times** more likely to apply to Oxbridge than students from similar backgrounds

Getting in contact: If you would like to speak with us further about our evaluation work with HEAT and UCAS or our programmes evaluation work more widely, please contact: Dr Lauren Bellaera, Chief Impact and Strategy Officer: collaborate@thebrilliantclub.org