



RAISING ASPIRATIONS

The Positive Impact of Student Led Mentoring Programme



SPARK Programme is an innovative educational mentoring programme which offers students the opportunity to learn from each other, work collaboratively with academics, and mentor pupils from diverse cultures, religions and lifestyles in mutually respectful and open contexts.

What are our aims?

- To raise aspirations among pupils to engage as citizens with civil society where they might not think they have any stake
- To mentor pupils to develop necessary skills for the classroom and beyond e.g. effective communication, public speaking, team work
- For students to develop a wealth of skills including mentoring, leadership and organization
- For students to realise the importance of their university education

How do we do this?

- The programme consists of six interactive sessions of 1.5 hours which students plan and deliver
- Each UWE student mentors two pupils. This makes a core element of each session
- At the beginning of each programme students undergo training with the school's Head for Support and Guidance and the Lead mentor
- Prior to each session the UWE team has a meeting with lead mentor and Aida, to discuss ideas, develop the programme and discuss any queries
- Sessions 1-5 are held at a school and a closing session takes place at UWE
- Students complete a work based portfolio as part of their assessed work-Level 2 Developing Self and Society module in HSS

VALUABLE OUTCOMES

"The SPARK Programme is meaningful as it demonstrates that the personal is political. It has also allowed me to develop confidence, organisation, creativity and presentation skills"

—Jordane Brokenshire, 2nd Year Politics and International Relations Student



Of pupils would consider university after completing the SPARK Programme

"We have learnt essential lessons about the world that will allow us as pupils and the next generation to contribute to our local area and the world"

—Pupils from Digitech School

STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Who is involved?

- SPARK has been developed by Dr Aida Abzhaparova in partnership with schools
- SPARK has been overseen by lead mentor, Ruth Barrington on a voluntary basis
- Ruth was initially a mentor on the programme, she developed into a lead mentor. In this role she provided training, leadership and helped to co-ordinate the programme
- Each Programme has 6-8 UWE students as mentors
- 20 pupils from each local school

What is the impact of SPARK?

- Raises pupils aspirations and equips them with key tools and skills to be able to achieve their goals
- 95% of pupils felt the programme was meaningful and offered many development opportunities
- Provides pupils with the opportunity to engage in a different method of learning
- Allows pupils the opportunity to engage in and appreciate the community which they live in
- Enriches the university experience for UWE students
- UWE students realised the relevance and impact of their university studies
- Creates vital links for the university within the community and sets UWE aside from other universities
- Promotes inclusivity and diversity in all areas