



OVER
8,200
Students Supported

OVER
20,000
Employer Encounters



ACCESS ASPIRATION

LINKING YOUNG PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

GETTING LIFE BACK ON TRACK DURING COVID-19 IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE

For young people from low income backgrounds, particularly those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, this is proving especially difficult.

Many have fallen behind in their studies and missed out on vital career-enhancing activities like work experience and paid internships. At a time when young people should be excited about their futures, they risk unemployment and precious time wasted.

Access Aspiration is a Mayor's Fund for London employability programme designed to provide high-quality careers support and guidance for 16–18 year olds who are making key decisions about their future but struggling to make links with employers.

The programme targets schools in boroughs where a high proportion of students are eligible for Pupil Premium and report a lack of access to businesses.

The Mayor's Fund for London is an independent charity. It has an independent board of trustees and raises all its own income. It is not core funded by the Greater London Authority.

Increasing social integration, community cohesion, inclusivity and diversity is a priority for the well-being of London and everyone who lives and works in the capital.

In partnership with London's business community, Access Aspiration aims to create more visibility of employment pathways by working with a range of schools and colleges to provide aspirational encounters and link employers to young talent in communities they are struggling to reach.

Access Aspiration was founded by our Trustee Jenny Halpern Prince and since 2014, has provided a variety of high-quality and aspirational employer encounters and experiences:

1,380

work experience placements

1,520

speed networking events

5,030

mock interviews

5,720

industry speaker sessions

3,840

employability workshops

2,260

business insights

95%

of young people report an increased knowledge of the range of careers available

92%

of young people report an increased understanding of their chosen industry

88%

of young people say they are more motivated to get into work

LAYING SOLID FOUNDATIONS

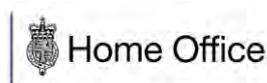
Over 40% of students surveyed reported having 'little or no access' to professional networks.

"Our students really need the work experience and confidence building - they don't have family networks and connections in the world of professional work. The disruption caused by Covid-19 will only widen the gap between those who are privileged and those who are not. I'm very concerned as it doesn't seem to be a temporary disruption." **Teacher – Brampton Manor Academy, Newham**

Over half of the state schools we work with have Pupil Premium rates of 50–65% and over two thirds of the students we support are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Young people without professional networks and other social capital are often unable to get a first foot in the door when it comes to accessing great careers. As a result of the pandemic, thousands more 16–18 year olds have been forced to sign on for benefits.

Access Aspiration can be easily accessed online or safely in-person when Covid-19 restrictions allow. Students gain insight into a wide range of job roles and sectors, including emerging and buoyant industries, and leave the programme with the practical knowledge and skills needed to boost university and apprenticeship applications.





“Thanks for the opportunity. I really love what your organisation is doing for the young generation and very happy to help however I can to give these kids a better future. Our industry needs more diversity in so many ways. The change will come with the next generation. It is also inspiring to see how engaged these kids are!”
Tyler E. Goodwin – Founder & CEO, Seaforth Land



LINKING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH BUSINESS

With the UK out of the EU, there is now an even greater need for businesses to invest in local, diverse talent pools. The Mayor’s Fund for London is committed to championing solutions that ensure no young Londoner is left behind.

One such initiative is our Diversity Pledge, which encourages employers to increase diversity in their recruitment and hiring practices.



HELP US DO MORE

“Work experience at Condé Nast has been the best thing ever. If I hadn’t had this opportunity through Access Aspiration, I would have to look independently, which would have taken a long time and not been as good. It made me certain that I want a career in media.” *Student – work experience at Condé Nast*

Access Aspiration works with a high-profile network of organisations, including:



We are hugely grateful to existing partners for their support and are always on the lookout for more exciting businesses to join our network to help young Londoners thrive.

By volunteering your time and financial support, your organisation can:

- ▶ Strengthen diversity and inclusion work by widening your reach to young Londoners from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds;
- ▶ Promote your business to a talented and motivated future workforce; and
- ▶ Support your Environmental, Social and Governance considerations.

GET IN TOUCH

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