

Promoting Potential Programme Teacher Information Sheet

The Promoting Potential Programme is a programme for Year 8 boys from African and Caribbean backgrounds attending London state schools. The Programme consists of a three-day non-residential Spring School taking place from **Monday 6 April - Wednesday 8 April 2020** plus two compulsory Top-up days taking place on **Wednesday 26 August** and **Saturday 14 November 2020**.

Places on the Promoting Potential Programme are in high demand and we are not able to offer places to all those who apply. This information is to ensure that teachers only pass details of Promoting Potential to eligible pupils to avoid disappointment. Information is also given about how best to support each application.

Promoting Potential Programme

The Promoting Potential Programme aims to encourage pupils from under represented backgrounds to consider progression to university. The Spring School plus follow-up days are designed to raise aspirations and awareness of university. They will also give pupils an opportunity to find out more about the range of social science subjects available to them at university.

Teacher reference: Academic Statement & Statement of Support

The teacher reference is an important part of the form and generic references will put the pupil at a disadvantage to those that are personal.

- **Academic Statement:** Write about the student's academic performance at school. Where possible, provide information on any academic achievements and the student's potential to go on to university. We are looking for students who are expected to achieve at least five 9-6 grades at GCSE.
- **Statement of Support:** Write about the student's suitability for the programme. Where possible, provide information on any extra-curricular involvement. We review all applications in a holistic manner and whilst we prioritise pupils who meet the selection criteria, we will consider all the information contained in an application. We therefore encourage teachers to include any additional information relevant in supporting the pupil's application in their reference.

We ask that teachers pay attention to **page 3** of the application form to confirm that the information pupils have included is correct.

Pupil selection

To be eligible we are looking for pupils who:

- Attend a non-selective state school in London. Preference is given to applicants attending schools performing below the national average at GCSE, based on Attainment 8 measure (below 44.4) or with FSM at 25 per cent or above.
- Are expected to achieve at least five 9-6 grades at GCSE

We will prioritise boys in Year 8 from African and Caribbean backgrounds, in the following groups:

Family background

- Eligible for free school meals and/or pupil premium now or in the last six years
- No parental experience of higher education (neither parent has a degree qualification)
- Parents/carers working in low socio-economic classification jobs and/or on receipt of means tested benefits
- Undertakes caring responsibility for a family member (a "young carer")

Neighbourhood

We use the following three postcode measures to assess areas of disadvantage:

- Living in an area of low progression to higher education (as defined by POLAR4 quintile 1 or 2) as determined by home postcode
- From Acorn groups LMOPQ as determined by home postcode
- From Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) or Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) quintiles 1 or 2 as determined by home postcode

Specific groups under-represented in higher education

- Students with a disability
- From a Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller community
- Young people who are care experienced or estranged from their family
- Forced migrants (accompanied or unaccompanied) including refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), persons granted humanitarian protection and limited / discretionary leave to remain and stateless persons
- Children of military families

Deadline for applications

The deadline for receiving applications is **Monday 3 February 2020**.

Due to the high number of applications we receive, we will not be able to provide feedback on individual applications.

Please find more information at www.lse.ac.uk/promotingpotentialyear8.