



The Third Sector: a bridge between schools and universities

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Registered Charity No. 225930

Higher Education and Schools Partnership Day

Effective Models for Partnership Working

Neil Stewart Associates, Wednesday 4 July 2012

A national charity that helps able young people reach their full academic potential and develop a passion for learning. We are committed to fair access – our Scholars Programme sets out to enable students from less advantaged backgrounds gain a place at a leading university or other centre of excellence.



Schools & universities: what's difficult



1. Schools don't have fair access at the top of their 'to do' list
2. Schools rarely have a dedicated person to deal with the university outreach team
3. University staff not always aware of the time pressure teachers face
4. The most needy schools are often the hardest to engage
5. Despite attainment being crucial with regard to university access, universities rarely get involved in supporting teachers
6. Do university outreach staff recognise that one off volume-driven activities are rarely effective?

Schools & universities: what's needed

1. Universities should focus on working with a designated number of schools
2. If unable to get senior leadership commitment at these schools, don't bother and find other ones
3. Devise programmes that give on-going support to students
4. Encourage teachers to use these students as a resource in their classrooms
5. Advocate for compatible government targets and measures for schools and universities
6. Advocate for initiatives like Pupil Premium and Education Endowment Fund to extend to post-16



£211,500 SPENT TO GET EACH POOR STUDENT A PLACE AT UNIVERSITY

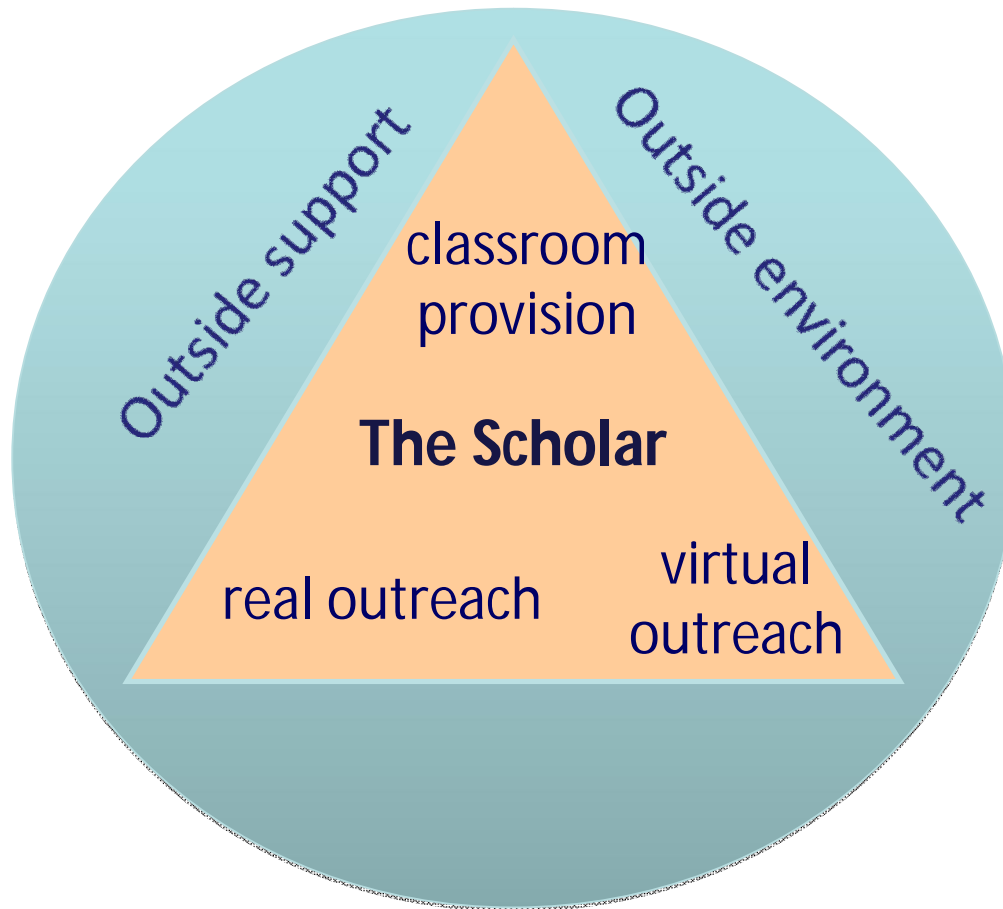
Daily Mail 5 February 2008

Ministers have applied pressure to elite institutions to increase their number of working-class students. More than £1billion has been spent recruiting just 5,300 students from disadvantaged homes to university, it emerged yesterday. Spending on schemes to boost numbers of poorer students has doubled in five years to more than £2.3billion, figures obtained by the Tories show. But universities' intake of students classed as having working- class backgrounds has crept up only fractionally. Astonishingly, it means £211,500 has been spent recruiting every additional working class student to university.



A programme to support able 14-19 students from less advantaged backgrounds through partnership work with schools, colleges, universities, other third sector organisations, families and the students themselves

The Scholars Programme addresses all factors that might impede a student's success





Real outreach

- *Stepping Stones to Excellence* key skills residential courses at Villiers Park
- Masterclasses at local universities
- Local single day workshops to broaden interests eg journalism, philosophy
- Subject specific residentials at Villiers Park in Year 12/13

Virtual outreach

- Dedicated Scholars Programme webpages with IAG
- 200 online extension activities covering 20 subjects
- E-mentoring with current undergraduates (subject and interest match)



Classroom Provision

- Villiers Park Advisory Service team work in their schools and colleges to develop the quality of everyday provision through action research, CPD and provision of resources

Outside support

- Regular one-to-one and group meetings with a Learning Mentor who also meets termly with a school liaison
- Developing and monitoring of a *Stepping Stones to Excellence* Action Plan

Outside environment

- Workshops, helpline, consultancy, regular communication for families

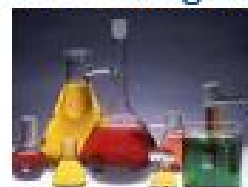
200 free online extension activities covering 20 subjects for able A-Level students



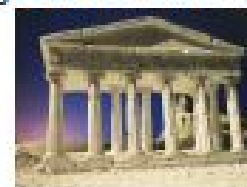
Art History



Biology



Chemistry



Classics



Economics



English Language



English Literature



French



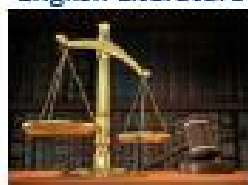
Geography



German



History



Law



Maths



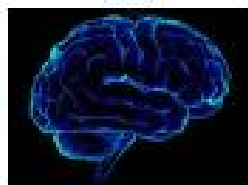
Media Studies



Philosophy



Physics



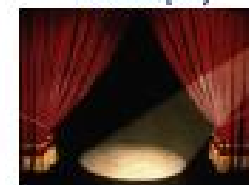
Psychology



Religion



Spanish



Theatre Studies



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Visit - www.villierspark.org.uk

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Development of expertise: exposing students to how tutors think and work

- Acquire some knowledge, skills and concepts (broadening/enrichment and deepening/extension)
- Establish domain valued behaviours, rules, norms
- Develop intellectual playfulness – breaking domain rules
- Discuss key issues – move from black and white to grey areas
- Reach tentative conclusions

Don't confuse fun with challenge

Don't give long overviews of degree options

Don't talk at participants for hours

Do get undergrads from similar backgrounds involved

End with a soft sell and follow up a visit

It's not easy but equally it's not rocket science to provide a fair access programme that benefits schools and universities in addition to the students



Teams of students build and launch rockets during a post-16 *Astrophysics: An Exploration of Space* course at Villiers Park