

Future First Online Mentoring

Future First is looking to run an online mentoring programme throughout the summer term. Future First will offer this opportunity to its 400+ member schools, asking schools to nominate students at key transition periods (ideally Year 11s) who will benefit most from this opportunity.

Participating students will be matched with relatable mentors who are either former students of their school or who are from the local area, and the mentors will work with the students, supporting them with the transition into sixth form or college as well as providing students with advice and guidance on exploring post-18 options.

Data from our partner mentoring organisation tells us that online mentoring has proven impact:

- 74% of mentees said their mentor influenced their post-18 pathway
- 78% of mentees said they felt more optimistic about the future as a result of online mentoring
- 81% of mentees learnt new things from their mentor

Future First requires financial support to make this project a reality. In return, you will support young people through this difficult period, helping ensure they are motivated and confident to embark on the next stage of their education.

Timeline

April: secure funding and share offer with schools

May: recruit mentors and mentees; DBS check mentors; match mentors to mentees (based on subject/job/hobby/skill interest); train mentors and mentees

June and July: eight week mentoring programme, focussed on supporting students through transitions, raising motivation and confidence

Cost

A two-month online mentoring programme will cost **£100 per student**.

This is based on 250 mentees and includes:

- Use of our partner organisation's online mentoring platform
- Developing a structured mentoring programme and accompanying resources
- DBS checks for mentors
- Support for each mentee/mentor pairing for the duration of the programme
- Evaluation

Why Future First?

Over the past decade we have facilitated access to relatable alumni role models for thousands of young people across England and Wales. In 2018/19, 81% of students at Future First facilitated workshops agreed that meeting former students shows that 'people like me' can be successful. 99% of teachers said they would recommend Future First workshops to other schools, and 96% of alumni volunteers said they would recommend Future First volunteering to a friend.

In January and February 2020 we delivered an in-person mentoring pilot for Year 12s and former students of participating schools, with promising outcomes:

	Before mentoring (% of participating students)	After mentoring (% of participating students)
Motivated to work hard at school	73%	93%
Confident about their future	61%	89%
Know what course/job they would like to do	56%	77%

Future First's four-year strategy from September 2020 will place emphasis on alumni to student digital connection, to ensure that even more young people can have access to the skills, advice and encouragement of former student role models. The learnings from both the original in person mentoring pilot and the proposed online mentoring initiative will provide an invaluable foundation from which Future First can develop its core offer to facilitate repeat interventions between young people and relatable alumni role models, with the support of technology, to have even more impact on the most disadvantaged young people.