

NORTH WALSHAM HIGH SCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAMME

The logo for North Walsham High School, featuring the school's name in white text on a red background. The text 'North Walsham' is in a bold, sans-serif font, and 'High School' is in a smaller, italicized serif font below it. To the right of the text is a vertical bar with yellow and blue segments.

Our Mentoring Programme is based on the simple proposition that young people will succeed if they are supported by those who are already successful.

Objectives

At NWHS we aim to provide a package of opportunities to raise the aspirations of our young people, and close the gap between those aspirations and their attainment.

Our mentoring programme is designed to provide positive role models for our students. We want them to be inspired, motivated, confident, and full of self-belief. We need to develop their 'soft skills' to improve their long-term employment prospects, because the latest research shows that this has huge benefits for both students and employers in the medium and long term. We know that employers have highlighted that employability skills are lacking in young people so our aim is to build upon these to enable them to progress in the world of work.

Target students

We believe that *all* of our students will benefit from mentoring, and it should be an entitlement for all, rather than just our weakest or least motivated students. Limited aspirations, low confidence, a weak sense of personal urgency and a limited understanding of career opportunities are shared across all ability levels.

School background

The last OFSTED report graded the school as 'Good'. They gave this context:

- This school is smaller than the average-sized secondary school.
- The proportion of students who are disabled or who have special educational needs is average.
- The proportion of students for whom the school receives the pupil premium is average. This is additional government funding for students who are eligible for free school meals and those in local authority care.
- The number of students from minority ethnic backgrounds is well below average, as is the proportion who speak English as an additional language. Nearly all of the student population is White British.
- The school meets the current floor standards, which set the minimum expectations for the attainment and progress of students.

How our scheme works

Our Year 9 students (13-14 year olds) attend a Speed Networking event in February, which is their opportunity to hear from potential mentors about a wide range of potential careers. They go into this session briefed and eager to find out about careers and options for their futures. At the end of the session we ask them to choose someone they have interacted well with during the session who has inspired them. This person then acts as their mentor for the following 2 years.



Speed Networking Event 2013

Over the course of year 10 and 11, the students meet their mentors regularly. We ask that the mentors commit to an average of one meeting per half term – if each meeting lasts an hour, that is 10 hours over the 2 years.

How can you get involved?

We offer a package of training to get our mentors involved. All need to complete a DBS check and basic safeguarding training to be able to work with our students.

We provide a pack of activities for our mentors to use. Many have taken students out on workplace and other visits, to provide a range of experiences which a school could not hope to supply. We aim to facilitate these experiences, and actively support our mentors in arranging them.

When you want to see your mentees, you simply let the Work Based Learning Officer know when you want to come in. They will check that a visit won't clash with another timetabled event (exams, trips, fixtures etc) and book a suitable room, inform students and arrange any other equipment required.

To register your interest:

- Come along to our Business Breakfast on Tuesday 24th January from 07.00 am to 09.00 am. This is your opportunity to meet current mentors, share ideas and meet some students
- Volunteer for our Speed Networking Launch on Wednesday 8th February

For more information or to sign up please contact Kate Lawn, Work Based Learning Officer.

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