

An evaluation of a Year 10 / Year 11 coaching programme (ThinkForward)

Submission date	Recruitment status	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
01/11/2013	No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date	Overall study status	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
27/12/2013	Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited	Condition category	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
26/01/2017	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

There is a reasonable amount of research examining the role and impact of mentoring and one-to-one coaching in a wide variety of environments and contexts but there is very little evidence that mentoring programmes are successful in raising educational achievement and aspirations of young people. This study seeks to fill this evidence gap through the evaluation of 'Think Forward': a programme that provides one-to-one coaching for young people. The main objective of this test study is to examine the feasibility of undertaking a larger scale evaluation of 'ThinkForward'.

Who can participate?

Year 10 and Year 11 pupils in four London secondary schools can participate.

What does the study involve?

Firstly, initial data will be collected from administrative records and directly from pupils via a survey. Two of the schools will be randomly selected to become 'intervention' schools, whilst the two remaining will become the control group. Within both intervention schools, 40 pupils (in both Year 10 and Year 11) will be identified as being eligible for the coaching program by Think Forward. Then half of these 40 pupils will be randomly selected to take part in the 'Think Forward' programme, the half remaining will become the control group. Interviews with Think Forward coaches, participating pupils and school staff will also be undertaken.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are potential benefits on educational outcomes for pupils selected into the 'ThinkForward' intervention group. Some of these benefits may spill over from the intervention group to other pupils (friends / siblings). There is an unknown risk around how pupils (and/ or their parents) might react to being placed in the control group - which is why the study is being initially run in a small scale.

Where is the study run from?

The study will take place in four London secondary schools, UK.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run?
The study began in November 2013 and will run until the end of the 2014/15 academic year.

Who is funding the study?
The Educational Endowment Foundation, UK.

Who is the main contact?
Mr Sean Demack
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
N/A

Study information

Scientific Title
A pilot randomised controlled trial evaluation of a Year 10 / Year 11 coaching programme (ThinkForward)

Study objectives

1. How feasible is pupil level randomisation in evaluating 'Think Forward'?
2. What is the impact of the Think Forward mentoring programme on a set of measurable outcomes including attainment?
3. How does the Think Forward mentoring scheme operate to produce these outcomes?

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Sheffield Hallam University Ethics Committee, 25/06/2013, ref: AM/SW/19-2013

Study design

Pilot randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Educational intervention in secondary schools

Interventions

The four schools will be randomised to intervention and control schools (two schools in each group).

Among the intervention schools, in each year group, 20 pupils will randomly selected to receive ThinkForward and the remaining 20 will be placed in the control group.

The intervention will involve ThinkForward coaches having one-to-one meetings with pupils to encourage greater engagement with education and develop skills in future planning.

The intervention will have two duration periods. For pupils in Year 11, the period will be around 6 months, for pupils in Year 10 it will be after 6 months and the end of their Year 11 (so 1.5 years).

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Change in attainment - KS3 to KS4(GCSE)

Attainment at Key Stage 3 (baseline) and Key Stage 4 (at the end of Year 11 so 2 years for Year 10, 1 year for Year 11) change between these measures (which are collected via public examinations).

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Change in future employment and educational expectations
2. Change in school attendance
3. Change in 2 'mind set' constructs - 'Aspiration' and 'Determination'

Secondary outcomes include attendance which also will be collected from administrative data at baseline and the end of the intervention periods.

A questionnaire will be used to collect detail on future educational and employment expectations and mindsets at baseline, after 6 months (both Y10 and Y11) and at the end of the 1.5 years (just for those who began in Y10).

Completion date

20/07/2014

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Using administrative data on Year 10 and 11 pupils in four London secondary schools, ThinkForward will identify 40 pupils most at-risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) following the completion of full-time education.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Child

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Any pupil who completes an opt-out form will not be included.

Date of first enrolment

06/11/2013

Date of final enrolment

20/07/2014

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Centre for Education & Inclusion Research (CEIR)

Sheffield

United Kingdom

S1 1WB

Sponsor information

Organisation

Educational Endowment Foundation (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/03bhd6288>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Charity

Funder Name

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<u>Participant information sheet</u>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes