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Using the Community Apprentice programme to improve student attainment in schools

Submission date
18/09/2018

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
29/10/2018

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
29/01/2025

Condition category
Other

[_] Prospectively registered
[X] Protocol
[X] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol
Background & Aims
This study aims to develop participants' sense of self-efficacy, social confidence and teamwork skills by supporting year 10 pupils to design and deliver a fundraising campaign for a charity chosen by the pupils. It combines project work in small teams with mentoring by local business leaders. The groups participate in a combination of in-school sessions, business-hosted sessions and cross-school events. The results are judged as part of a cross-school competition, in which all teams are assessed and one team is chosen as a winner based on a final presentation.
The intervention will be delivered by Envision, an organisation founded in 2000 dedicated to enabling young people to 'become more aware of social and environmental problems and empowered with the self-belief and skills they need to build a better world'.

Who can participate?
Year 10 students in 30 participating schools who have been nominated by their school to take part.

What does the study involve?
Students will be randomly allocated to the intervention or the control group.
The intervention group will participate in the following programme over a 12 week period:
1. A 6 hour cross-school event allowing pupils to be exposed to a variety of local charities who pitch for their support. Pupils then choose which charity they'd like to fundraise for.
2. Four 2 hour business mentor sessions, in which teams attend workshops with trained volunteers from local companies. Session material is provided and sessions are generally delivered at the business premises
3. Eleven 1 hour sessions in school, in which the pupils are supported by Envision coaches to develop their ideas for fundraising and a fundraising plan; and reflect on their progress
4. A final 3 hour 'Apprentice-style' cross school event and boardroom challenge in which pupils present their results against other schools in their area.
Participants randomised into the control group will not receive any programming.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The possible benefit to participants is that taking part in this programme may lead to improved character outcomes (as observed in a previous RCT of the programme), and this improvement

may lead to improved test scores. There are no known risks to participants taking part in this study.

Where is the study run from?
1. Envision (UK)
2. Behavioural Insights Team (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
June 2017 to August 2018

Who is funding the study?
1. Education Endowment Foundation (UK)
2. Careers and Enterprise Company (UK)
3. Bank of America Merrill Lynch (USA)

Who is the main contact?
Kim Bohling
kimberly.bohling@bi.team

Contact information

Type(s)
Public

Contact name
Ms Kimberly Bohling

Contact details
4 Matthew Parker Street
London
United Kingdom
SW1H 9NP

Additional identifiers

Study information

Scientific Title
Using the Community Apprentice programme to improve student attainment: A randomised trial in schools

Acronym
CA

Study objectives
Participation in Envision's Community Apprentice programme, which engages year 10 pupils in designing and delivering a fundraising campaign for a charity of their choosing, will improve pupils' overall GCSE performance in year 11.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Ethical review for this trial is governed by the EEF's guidelines and by BIT's internal ethical procedure, which is based on that established by the Economic and Social Research Council. The internal review was completed on 15 June 2017.

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Interventional two-armed randomised controlled trial

Study type(s)
Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Overall GCSE attainment at the end of year 11

Interventions
30 schools will recruit 26 year 10 pupils each. The total number of pupils who are able to take part in the intervention in each school is limited to 13, as this reflects Envision’s capacity to deliver the programme. Pupils will be randomised within schools - 13 will be randomised into the treatment group, and 13 will be assigned to the control group. Where the number of pupils recruited exceeds 26, we will randomly select 26 pupils to be included in the evaluation, and randomisation will be conducted as described above. Where the number of pupils recruited is less than 26, 13 will be randomised into the treatment group and the remaining number will be assigned to the control group. Pupils in each school are stratified by their Free School Meals status. A random number will be generated for each student, and the participant list will be sorted by random number within each block. Alternating condition assignments will be applied to the list (an additional random number will determine if assignment begins with treatment (odd number) or control (even number). Where schools have under-recruited, the student(s) with the lowest random numbers in the control group will be re-allocated to the treatment group until the treatment group contains 13 students.
Treatment group participants will take part in a 12-week programme that includes several elements: a 6 hour cross school event where pupils learn about the charities for which they can fundraise; four 2 hour business mentor sessions, in which teams attend workshops with trained volunteers from local companies; eleven 1 hour sessions in school, where pupils are supported by Envision coaches to develop their ideas for fundraising; and a 3 hour 'Apprentice-style' cross-school event in which pupils present their results and compete against other schools in their region.
Participants in the control group will not have any intervention provided.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
Overall GCSE performance at the end of the 2018-19 school year, as measured by the capped average point scores across eight best GCSEs (Attainment 8)

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Maths attainment at the end of the 2018-19 school year, as assessed by GCSE point score
2. English attainment at the end of the 2018-19 school year, as assessed by the averaged English Language and English Literature GCSE point scores
3. The programme's impact on the development of three key non-cognitive skills, assessed at the end of the 2017-18 school year:
3.1. Self-efficacy, as measured by the 'New General Self Efficacy Scale' (NGSE)
3.2. Social confidence, as measured by the 'Self- Perceived Communication Competence Scale' (SPCC)
3.3. Team behaviour, as measured by the 'Teamwork Scale for Youth' (TSY)

Completion date
31/07/2018

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
Students in year 10 selected by school staff to take part in the intervention in participating schools

Participant type(s)
Other

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Child

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
Pupils whose parents objected to the child's participation in the programme and/or the evaluation

Date of first enrolment
01/09/2017

Date of final enrolment
01/12/2017

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Envision
Elizabeth House
39 York Road
London
United Kingdom
SE1 7NQ

Study participating centre
Behavioural Insights Team
4 Matthew Parker Street
London
United Kingdom
SW1H 9NP

Sponsor information

Organisation
Education Endowment Foundation

ROR
https://ror.org/03bhd6288

Funder(s)

Funder type
Not defined

Funder Name
Education Endowment Foundation

Alternative Name(s)
EducEndowFoundn, The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), Education Endowment Foundation | London, EEF

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be stored in the UK Data Archive repository, including all data used to produce the final report. The full data set will be provided to the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) data lab by 24th November 2020. The FFT is responsible for anonymising and preparing this for the UK Data Archive. The UK Data Archive will set all criteria regarding data sharing. Participants were informed of archival.

IPD sharing plan summary

Stored in non-publicly available repository

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		17/10/2024	29/01/2025	Yes	No
Funder report results		17/10/2024	29/01/2025	No	No
Protocol (other)		13/02/2019	29/01/2025	No	No
Statistical Analysis Plan		31/07/2019	29/01/2025	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes