

“Girls Mean Business – Changing the Conversation”



Eighteen socially mobile girls from Newham schools will come together with leading businesses and non-profits at the inaugural Business Meets Emerging Scholars, supported by SHINE, on Wednesday 11th December 2013 at Plashet School in East Ham.

They will debate key issues such as “What makes a good business?”, “What do we need from the organisations we work with?” and “Why would businesses be interested in equality and diversity?”

The girls are in their third year of an innovative Saturday programme, the Emerging Scholars' Intervention Programme (ESIP), designed to develop the Big 5 skills (creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, communication and teamwork). The programme pushes their boundaries and forces them out of their comfort zones on the journeys to becoming enterprising, confident, resilient women. It helps them build the attitudes, habits and behaviours to sustain them for now and whatever they do in the future.

As one student puts it, “Thanks to ESIP I have overcome so many hurdles and I have learned to aim high and not be afraid. I used to feel like I was in a truck that was out of control going downhill but now I feel like I am on a smooth road to success.”

Business Meets Emerging Scholars is a partnership between leading educational funder SHINE and the ESIP programme.

Dr Simon Davey, ESIP Programme Leader said, “This is a great opportunity for the girls to showcase and further develop the critical and communication skills they have learned and robustly debate important issues with business people of all ages. We all have something to learn and share from each other and we look forward to an interesting discussion which leads to action and change.”

Find out more at the event blog at www.businessmeetses.org.uk and the programme website www.esipforest.org.uk

Footnotes

1. SHINE: Support and Help in Education is a registered charity which works to raise the achievement levels of young people. By supporting a variety of educational initiatives, SHINE helps give disadvantaged young people the opportunities they need to catch up with their more fortunate peers. <http://www.shinetrust.org.uk/site/>
2. Emerging Scholars' (ESIP) is a Saturday programme bringing together Plashet School, St Angela's Ursuline School, Sarah Bonnell School and Forest School. Girls attend for up to three years in the middle years of secondary school and there are currently 75 girls enrolled. www.esipforest.org.uk
3. For further information or to arrange an interview or photo opportunity on the day please contact Dr Simon Davey on 07958 292990 or email simon@esip.org.uk