

Beyond Sponsorship: Collaboration as a catalyst for educational change

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A 15-Year Commitment



Over 15 years of
sustained
partnership



Lead sponsor of
University of Kent
Academies Trust
(UKAT)
Brompton Academy
Chatham Grammar



Not an external
institution, but a
trusted neighbour



The Context

- Medway has a selective education system
- On average, non-selective schools have a lower percentage of high prior attainers than the national average.
- Non-selective school also have a higher percentage of SEN students than national average

Brompton Academy

- 40.5% of IMD Q1 students
- 36.7% students on FSM
- 64% of students applied to HE in 2024

Chatham Grammar

- 22.6% of IMD Q1 students
- 14.7% students on FSM
- 81% progress to University in 2024

Our Vision

Improved educational outcomes for all students at UKAT

Higher rates of progression to higher education (HE) from UKAT schools

Enhanced readiness for higher education

Opportunities for University of Kent students to gain valuable skills and experience

A strong, dynamic connection between the University of Kent and the local Medway community.



Our Plan



**Governance and
Support for Leadership**



**Actively engaging with
UKAT senior leaders
and teachers**



**Delivering a
progressive and
adaptable outreach
curriculum**



**Providing regular
opportunities for UKAT
students to interact
with University of Kent
students and staff,**



**Implementing a flexible
and targeted academic
support curriculum**



**Supporting teacher
professional
development (CPD)
Ensuring sustained
support for UKAT
students throughout
their degrees**



**Promoting engagement
between University of
Kent academic staff
and UKAT teachers and
students**



**Conducting rigorous
evaluation of all
initiatives**

Enriching Young Lives



- Annual project days on campus
- Regular interaction with Kent staff and ambassadors
- Literacy, oracy, STEM support
- Extracurriculars: debating, science clubs, creative writing
- Enrichment led by Kent academics

Supporting Sixth Form Success

Campus visits to
Medway &
Canterbury

Progression
courses, tasters,
summer schools

Personal guidance
on post-18
pathways

Early support for
competitive routes
(Oxbridge,
medicine, etc.)

Research Skills
Module introduced
in 2019

Peer mentoring
with Kent
postgraduates

Strengthening the Whole Community

Parents/carers: short courses & tasters

Mid-Kent College partnership for FE students

CPD for UKAT staff co-designed with Kent

University staff learn from local schools

Kent students placed in UKAT schools

What has changed?

Brompton Academy
is the most
oversubscribed
school in Medway

Narrowing of
disadvantage
attainment gap

Increase in the
number of
applications to HE

What Students Say

“And she was a bit like me in the sense that, you know, she wanted to stay somewhere local...I'm sure that the ambassadors really influenced how students saw their own lives could change if they took university and those kinds of, you know, paths seriously...**they were a big inspiration for me**... they spoke to us like we were on their level, even though we were not, but it just felt like a different dynamic to a teacher, sometimes, you know?”

- Bea, a former student ambassador and Brompton Academy student

“It supported my studies, gave me a better understanding of what post-sixth form life would look like, and provided a more worldly experience of diverse cultures and languages”

- Ben, a student ambassador and former Brompton Academy student

The Challenges



targeted work



Academic
mentoring



Evaluation



Change of
embedded
programmes



Final Thoughts



WHAT WAS THE NATURE
OF YOUR
COLLABORATION?



WHAT WAS YOUR
PARTNERSHIP TRYING TO
ACHIEVE?



WHAT ACTIVITIES TOOK
PLACE?



WHAT WENT WELL/ NOT SO WELL WITH YOUR PARTNERSHIP?
- WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A
SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP?



A Model of Place-Based Partnership

Not a pilot: this is long-term and embedded

Recognised by Office for Students as a case study

Co-designed with stakeholders

Locally rooted

Generational in scope

Sustainable year after year



Thank
you.