



Organisation

King's International & U3A with support from Ethnic Language Minority Service Support (ELMS)

Target Group(s)

Mentoring Scheme is open to all pupils but targeted at Years 7 and 8.

Context

Through community links with U3A Kings received support from Ethnic Language Minority Service Support to set up a pilot to provide mentoring to students speaking English as a second language. The mentors are retired professionals who have been trained to help pupils with English as a Second Language (ESOL). A quarter of the approximately 700 students at Kings fall within the category of ESOL. Based on the success of the pilot, Kings now runs two sessions per week with students and is expanding the focus to also include SEN pupils.

Action planned

The mentoring sessions support pupils with both the acquisition of English and enable others to maintain and improve their English. The sessions are held on Wednesday and Thursday after school. Pupils attend one or more session per week and have the option of maintaining contact with their mentor after they have been assessed as no longer needing a weekly session.

Participation in the English sessions can be teacher or child initiated. If a pupil fails to attend then their place will be given to another student on the waiting list. For SEN pupils a letter goes home explaining to parents and carers about the opportunity.

The mentoring sessions are free of charge.

As the scheme has grown, mentors are also participating in class alongside students, rather like a voluntary TA.

Outcomes and Impacts

The pilot sessions were well attended and based on this King's has gone on to expand the mentoring sessions to SEN pupils. ELMS have stepped away from supporting and the sessions are now organised and managed by Kings.

The topics on offer are expanding to introduce the new vocabulary and topics in humanities in addition to reading, writing and spoken English.

Results from the mentoring scheme have been significant. One student moved from a threshold level 1 speaking (Oct 2008), writing and listening to level 3A (Jan 2009) to reading level 4A and writing level 4B by May 2009. Their progress in the small mentoring group is clearly demonstrated by these moves and in addition the pupil also received support in small class groups during school hours. Other students greatly improved their vocabulary and confidence in English after attending the mentoring scheme.

"Pupil with baseline assessment in November 2008, demonstrated clear progress by April 2009 having participated in mentoring scheme."

"...has made remarkable progress in class and in the mentoring session. The improvement has been so great that they no longer need to continue in the small group sessions."

Oct 2008: threshold level 1 speaking, writing & listening

Jan 2009: 3A writing and listening

May 2009: 4A reading level and 4B writing level

Next Steps

To continue to run the mentoring sessions with Kings monitoring attendance levels and effectiveness. ELMS continue re-assess annually, and the expansion to SEN in 2009 is the latest chapter in this success story.