Inspire2INVOLVE

A partnership between Downing College, Cambridge and Villiers Park Educational Trust
Downing College, Cambridge

Downing College, as part of the University of Cambridge, is committed to enabling bright but disadvantaged students from under-represented backgrounds to fulfil their academic potential and maximize their options for higher education.

As part of the area link scheme, which pairs each Cambridge University College with local authority regions, Downing has since 2000 worked closely with schools in Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Dorset.

Villiers Park Educational Trust

Villiers Park Educational Trust is a social mobility charity based in Foxton, near Cambridge, and has over 50 years’ experience of helping young people reach their full academic potential.

Nationwide, its work includes a range of linked programmes to support the young people we work with, such as Scholars Programme, Inspiring Excellence Programme and INVOLVE.

The charity has supported thousands of young people in success at school and university and on to a career of their choice, with a long-standing track record of working with high ability post-16 students and contributing towards closing the gap between less-advantaged students and their peers.

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**Inspire2INOLVE**

Programme Overview

*Inspire2INOLVE* is a joint initiative between Downing College, Cambridge and Villiers Park Educational Trust that is targeted at high academic potential Year 12 students from less-advantaged backgrounds in the Plymouth area. It aims to work closely with schools to raise aspirations and encourage academic success for this group of A-level students.

The programme is fully funded and there is no cost to schools or students to participate.

The key focus is supporting students with the development of their self-esteem, aspirations, study skills, life skills, attainment and to encourage them to consider studying at a high tariff university. We also hope to raise awareness of the University of Cambridge and strive to encourage applications from students from this area.

**Inspire2INOLVE**

Identifying Students

*Inspire2INOLVE* takes a contextual approach to identifying participating students, with considerations of both academic and less-advantaged background factors:

- As a guide, we suggest that students who have the potential to achieve high grades at A-level will connect well with content and thrive on the programme.

- Many background factors could be considered as ‘less-advantaged’, for example being the first generation in their family to consider attending higher education.

In all cases, we will work with you to identify and engage students in your school that you believe will benefit most from *Inspire2INOLVE*.

Overall, there are 30 funded places on the programme per academic year. There is not a fixed number of places allocated per school, however, as we appreciate that the number of students who may wish to participate from each vary greatly. We will work with all participating schools to distribute places fairly.
Places on the programme are sponsored by Downing College, and enable students to participate, at no charge, in two main elements - both of which are recognised by UCAS as ‘Preparation for HE’ on university applications.

- **Inspire** – attendance at a week-long subject specific residential course at Villiers Park Educational Trust’s Centre in Foxton, near Cambridge
- **INVOLVE** – offering participating students the opportunity to imagine, develop and deliver a student-led educational project that benefits their school community, gaining themselves an INVOLVE Award

For **Inspire**, students are introduced to the latest ideas and research, allowing them to explore challenging topics beyond the A-level specification. Teamwork, research, presentations and creativity are important features of our courses, helping participants to develop key study and employability skills.

The academic, motivational and social benefits of attending are strong, as testified by teachers, university admissions tutors, and most importantly by the students themselves.

**INVOLVE** offers important benefits – students will be challenged to develop key employability and personal skills, including leadership, confidence and project management. Participants are able to work towards achieving UCAS recognised Awards through our online portal.

Partner schools and colleges will gain through a strategy that supports students beyond those participating in our programmes to become independent learners, enriching the learning environment with minimal time input from staff.
Inspiring Excellence Programme (Inspire)

This annual programme of transformational subject specific residential courses provides a unique and challenging educational opportunity for young people with high academic potential from across the UK to develop their passion for learning. Working with young academics they are provided with an insight into the knowledge and skills needed to become an expert in their chosen field.

**Closing date for registration forms: 19 October 2018**

- **Physics: The Quantum Universe**
  - Code: 19S009
  - Dates: Sunday 17 to Wednesday 21 November 2018

- **English Literature**
  - Code: 19S010
  - Dates: Thursday 13 to Monday 17 December 2018

**Closing date for registration forms: 2 November 2018**

- **Engineering**
  - Code: 19S011
  - Dates: Monday 14 to Friday 18 January 2019

- **Economics**
  - Code: 19S012
  - Dates: Monday 28 January to Friday 1 February 2019

- **Environmental Chemistry**
  - Code: 19S013
  - Dates: Monday 11 to Friday 15 February 2019

- **Forensic and Social Psychology**
  - Code: 19S014
  - Dates: Monday 18 to Friday 22 February 2019

- **Law**
  - Code: 19S015
  - Dates: Monday 4 to Friday 8 March 2019

- **Physics: How the Universe Lives and Dies**
  - Code: 19S016
  - Dates: Monday 18 to Friday 22 March 2019

- **Creative Writing**
  - Code: 19S017
  - Dates: Monday 1 to Friday 5 April 2019

- **Computer Science: Logic to Application**
  - Code: 19S018
  - Dates: Monday 8 to Friday 12 April 2019

- **Neuroscience: Understanding the Brain**
  - Code: 19S019
  - Dates: Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 May 2019

- **Biology: Ecology and Evolution**
  - Code: 19S020
  - Dates: Monday 3 to Friday 7 June 2019

- **Hidden Histories**
  - Code: 19S021
  - Dates: Monday 10 to Friday 14 June 2019

- **Medicinal Chemistry**
  - Code: 19S022
  - Dates: Monday 17 to Friday 21 June 2019

- **Mathematics**
  - Code: 19S023
  - Dates: Monday 24 to Friday 28 June 2019

- **English Literature: Shakespeare**
  - Code: 19S024
  - Dates: Monday 1 to Friday 5 July 2019

- **Forensic Science**
  - Code: 19S025
  - Dates: Monday 15 to Friday 19 July 2019

_Students who register for these courses will be updated when dates are confirmed in April_

- **Neuroscience: Understanding the Brain**
  - Code: TBC – Next academic year

- **Chemistry: Quantum Mechanics to Biocatalysts**
  - Code: TBC – Next academic year

- **Philosophy, Politics and Economics**
  - Code: TBC – Next academic year

- **Medicinal Chemistry**
  - Code: TBC – Next academic year

- **Geography: Geographical Imaginations**
  - Code: TBC – Next academic year

- **French: Language and Identity**
  - Code: TBC – Next academic year

- **Biology: Cell Biology and Genetics**
  - Code: TBC – Next academic year

- **Mathematics: Chaos or Clear Cut?**
  - Code: TBC – Next academic year
Throughout the year, we will support schools, students and other stakeholders on the programme wherever possible.

If you have any questions at any stage, please don’t hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working closely with your school.