

Discover Mentoring



Become a mentor. Make a difference

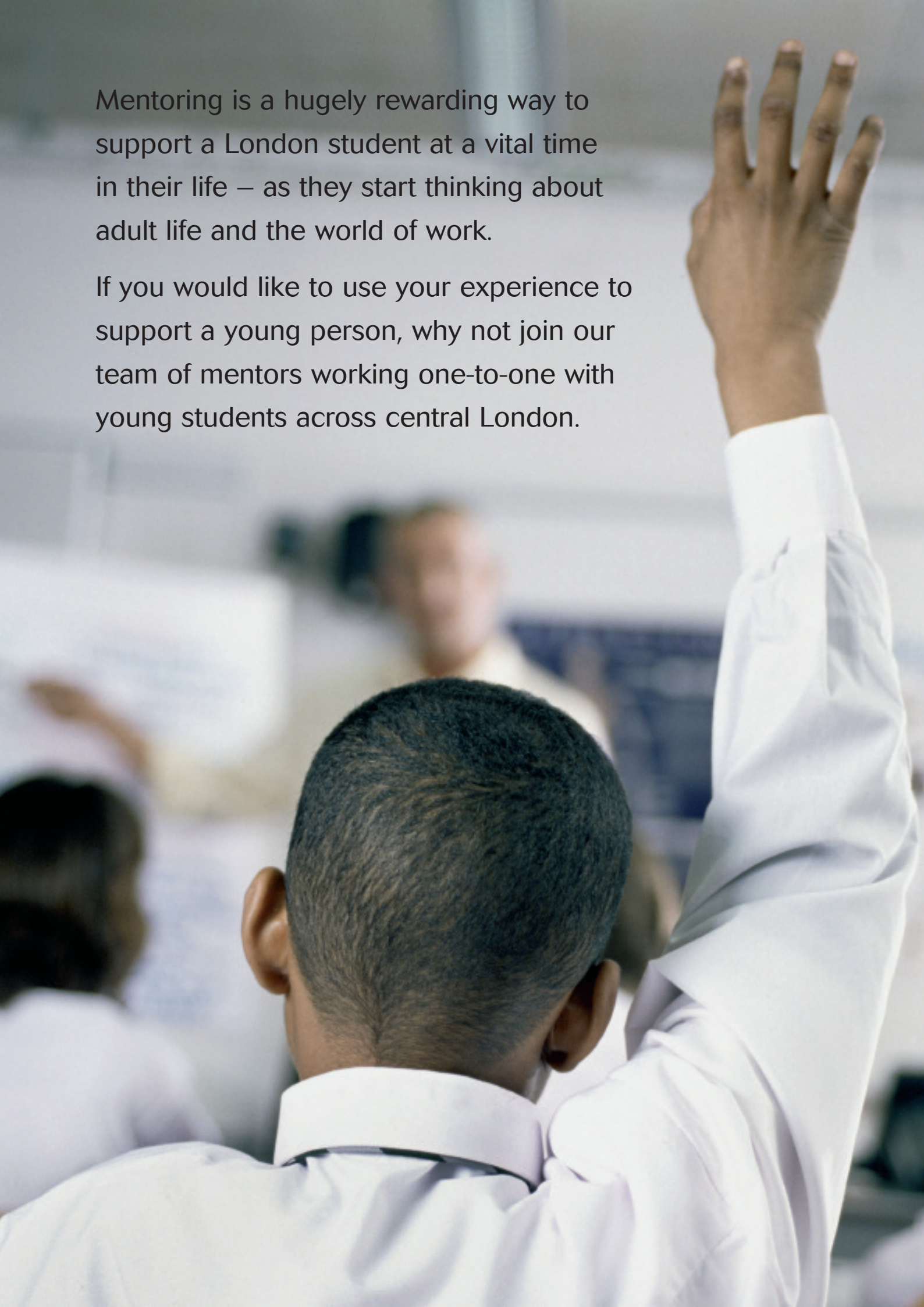
Join our team of volunteers supporting London students one-to-one.



London Central
Education Business Alliance

Mentoring is a hugely rewarding way to support a London student at a vital time in their life – as they start thinking about adult life and the world of work.

If you would like to use your experience to support a young person, why not join our team of mentors working one-to-one with young students across central London.





What is mentoring?

The strength of mentoring is that it's based on a sustained one-to-one relationship between a student and a mentor.

A mentor is someone different from a parent or teacher – someone outside the student's normal life who can encourage and guide, share experiences or simply listen.

As a mentor, you will support and guide a student as they consider what they want to do after leaving school. You can introduce them to a new perspective and to the world of business. You can motivate them to study. You can help them consider their options for the future.

The mentor can become a role model at a critical stage in the young person's development – helping them to make the decisions that will shape the rest of their lives.

Why be a mentor?

Have you ever thought how your experience, skills and knowledge could help a student starting out on their adult life? They could be a huge asset to a young person as they reach the end of their school career and start to think about next steps. Most mentors comment on how satisfying it is to support a student and make a real and noticeable difference to their lives.

Apart from the personal satisfaction of helping a young person, you can learn from the experience as well. As a mentor you will need to use your communication skills in new ways, adapt to different situations and think on your feet. You will give a lot, but learn a lot too.

And it can be fun! Getting to know somebody new – swapping news and experiences – feeling you are having a positive impact on a young person's future. It's something you will both remember for the rest of your lives.

What does mentoring involve?

There are different forms of mentoring (see below). Some mentors meet their students face-to-face, others communicate through e-mail, or a combination of the two. You may mentor a student for just a few weeks or for a whole school year. We'll help you find the type of mentoring that's right for you.

Either way you'll receive a half day training from experts in the field and be supported throughout the relationship by the school's mentoring co-ordinator, or another named person, who can give you any advice and support whenever you need it.

Whatever type of mentoring you choose, you'll get to know the student and set goals together. And because your employer supports our mentoring programme, you will be able to be a mentor during working hours, not in your own time.



What is a mentor?

'A one to one, non-judgemental relationship in which an individual mentor voluntarily gives time to support and encourage another. This relationship is typically developed at a time of transition in the mentee's life, and lasts for a significant and sustained period of time'

Different types of mentoring

Which type of mentoring you choose will depend on your own interests, preferences and working schedule. Mentoring is flexible and can be adapted to the needs of the mentor. We'd be pleased to discuss how best to make mentoring work for you too.

Face to face mentoring

This involves face-to-face meetings between the mentor and student, which normally take place either at the school or the mentor's workplace. The timing of the meetings is flexible and depends on the commitments of both mentor and student – but typically they take place once a fortnight and last for approximately one hour. Arrangements may be made to communicate by email as well. Early meetings are used to lay down ground rules, explore areas where the mentor can be of help and begin to build a relationship. Finding common ground (whether it's a passion for music or supporting the same football team) is often the first step towards a successful mentoring experience.

E-mentoring

Mentoring by e-mail is convenient, easy to arrange, and allows students and mentors to communicate in a considered and structured way. The mentor may be expected to exchange one or two emails each week for a period of up to a year. During the mentoring period a face-to-face meeting may be arranged too. E-mails are sent via our web-based e-mail processor which will not interfere with your personal or company IT systems. Students and mentors do not exchange personal e-mail addresses.

Spot mentoring

This involves matching a student with a mentor who can help with a particular interest or question. For example, students thinking of a career in finance or construction may be paired with business mentors working in those fields. A student interested in languages may be paired with a native speaker of, for example, French or Spanish.



Spot mentoring may involve face-to-face meetings or e-mailing, or a combination of both. The mentor may offer more general support too. Spot mentoring relationships are generally shorter than other types of mentoring, though this isn't always the case.

Who will be mentored?

As a business mentor you will be supporting a student between the ages of 14-19 in one of the following boroughs:

- Camden
- Islington
- City of Westminster
- Lambeth
- Southwark
- Wandsworth
- Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

Child protection

To safeguard children, all business mentors are police checked. If mentors and students exchange e-mails this is done via our web-based e-mail processor so that no personal e-mail addresses are exchanged. All e-mails are stored and a random selection viewed each week.

How can I find out more?

If you would like to support and encourage the next generation through mentoring, simply turn to the back cover for more information and contact addresses.

Becoming a mentor

We are looking for companies willing to encourage their staff to become mentors, and for individuals wanting to help a young person.

To get involved in mentoring simply contact London Central Business Alliance using the details below.

We normally ask that each company joining the mentoring scheme identify a co-ordinator – someone within the company who will have an overview of their company's involvement.

Mentoring in central London is funded by the European Social Fund and the Learning and Skills Council. The project is managed by the London Central Education Business Alliance, a consortium of organisations dedicated to creating links between schools and businesses in central London.

'There is nothing more fulfilling than contributing to young people's aspirations and objectives!'

Terry Chapman, The Terence Chapman Group



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