

# Discover E-mentoring



Become an e-mentor to a London student

E-mentoring – using the power of e-mail to enable business volunteers to support and encourage young people at a crucial time in their lives.



London Central  
Education Business Alliance

# Discover E-mentoring

## What is e-mentoring?

E-mentoring is a revolutionary way to bring the expertise and experience of business people within the reach of more London students.

E-mentors are business people from across the capital who agree to be paired with a secondary student from a London school – to offer support, advice and encouragement as the young person considers their next steps after leaving school.

E-mentors and students exchange e-mails once or twice a week, building a relationship that supports students in years 10, 11 and 12.

## What does e-mentoring achieve?

The final terms of secondary school are a critical time in a young person's life. As well as studying for final exams they must think about their future education and training, and consider the kind of career they want for themselves.

The e-mentor is someone the student can turn to for advice and support – someone outside of the school and family who is there to help them discover answers to their own questions and give a sense of direction.

Mentoring can improve a student's self esteem, motivation, achievement and attendance. Mentors can also help students prepare for the world of work by giving them an insight into different careers, and improving their employability skills.

In short, mentors can be valuable role models, helping students to make decisions which can affect the rest of their lives.

## Is e-mentoring different to ordinary mentoring?

E-mentoring brings many of the same benefits as conventional, face-to-face mentoring, but with some significant advantages.

- You do not need to spend valuable time travelling to meetings – e-mails can be written and sent at a time of your convenience.
- You don't have to mentor a local student – the pairing can be made on the basis of the students needs and interests, not limited by geographical constraints.
- E-mails give students the chance to take part in considered and structured adult communication.





### **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'*

## How do business mentors benefit?

Business mentors frequently say how much they gain from the experience of mentoring. There's the personal satisfaction that comes from helping students develop skills that will shape their future working lives. These skills include communication, time management, developing working relationships, managing boundaries, online learning techniques, coaching, action planning and goal setting.

## Will I be trained?

Yes, all mentors will receive a half day's training by leading experts, that can take place at business premises if required.

*'Great course, really looking forward to the experience'*

*'Very thought provoking. Enjoyable'*

## How much of my time will it take?

As long as it takes to write one or two e-mails a week. You can enjoy the benefits of being a mentor without it taking up too much of your time. The relationship normally lasts up to one academic year.

## Who will I be mentoring?

As a business e-mentor you will be supporting a student (aged 14-19 years) in one of the following boroughs:

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



## Will I meet the student face-to-face too?

You will probably meet face-to-face at some point but the contact will mainly be by e-mail.

## Will I use my company or personal e-mail address?

You can use either, e-mails are sent via LCEBA's web based e-mail processor which will not interfere with your company or personal IT systems. E-mails are sent to the web address (in the same way as other e-mails) and are then forwarded to the mentoring partner.

## Child protection

Child protection is safeguarded through transparent procedures and use of customised software which provides a controlled and monitored environment. All business mentors are police checked and neither mentor nor student will know each other's e-mail address. All e-mails are stored and a random selection is sent to project managers each week for inspection.

## How can I get involved?

If you would like to support and encourage the next generation through e-mentoring, simply turn to the back cover to discover how to take part.

**E-mentoring harnesses the power of e-mail to link London students with mentors from the business world.**

Students benefit greatly from having another adult to communicate with by e-mail – someone outside the school and family who can advise and support students during their final terms at secondary school.

**'For the time it takes to write a few e-mails a month it can bring huge benefits to students!'**

Stuart O'Kane,  
Pylon Design Consultants

**'Becoming an e-mentor can be hugely satisfying – helping someone make the most of school and think about their future!'**

Hardeep Sandhu, Redeye International Ltd

# Becoming an e-mentor

We are looking for companies and individuals who are willing to support e-mentoring by encouraging their staff to become mentors.

To find out how you can get involved in e-mentoring simply contact London Central Education Business Alliance using the details below.

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

E-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.



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