

Objectives of the placement

Depending on your mentee's needs and circumstances, a learning mentor can help towards one or more of the following objectives. All are ultimately designed to support your mentee in becoming a strong and independent learner.

1. Study skills & techniques

Structuring essays, techniques for multiplication or division, revision strategies, exam techniques, spelling strategies.... Sharing all these things and more can set students up to do the task by themselves.

2. Improved knowledge/understanding of specific subjects

Whether it be a higher standard of English, a better understanding of scientific processes, or a greater knowledge of the causes of World War II... Depending on your subject area, the student is likely to have a higher level of knowledge in that area by the end.

3. Better grades

These improvements may translate to better exam results in the subject you're working on.

4. Knowing how & where to get help

Do they know where the local library is? Are they a member? Do they know where to go for careers advice? Is there a teacher who they find more approachable than others?

5. Knowing what study resources are available and how to use them

Revision guides, useful websites, the school intranet, spelling books, revision cards, post-it notes, homework diaries...

6. Having aspirations & developing a plan for the future

Does your mentee actually have aspirations, particularly if they have low-self esteem? Have they explored a range of options for the future? Do they know what grades/subjects they need to have to reach their target? What colleges or sixth forms offer their courses? What kind of work experience could they get?

7. Managing expectations and setting realistic targets

At the same time, are their aspirations realistic? Do they have a plan B in case they don't achieve their targets?

8. Improved relationships with adults

You may be the only adult in their life who isn't 'telling' them what to do. Neither a family member nor a 'professional'. You may gain a lot of trust and they may share more with you than they would with other adults.

9. Increased confidence

All of the above should help mentees improve their overall confidence and self-esteem.

10. Greater happiness & wellbeing

If Love to Learn supports the student holistically, providing help with career options, advice and referrals on casework such as housing, health and immigration, and links them to social and extra-curricular activities to reduce isolation, the programme can improve the student's happiness and wellbeing. The mentor can be a key link in this chain to ensure that the needs of the mentee and their family are regularly fed back to the team at Love to Learn.