

Go Further Mentoring Project via Brightside Information for Parents and Carers

What is Go Further?

Go Further is a mentoring project hosted by Greater Manchester Higher (GMHigher) that takes place through a secure online platform called “Brightside”. The mentoring project has been set up by local universities and colleges to help pupils in Year 10 find out more about their options at age 16 and 18, including university-level courses.

It may seem a bit early to start thinking about these options in year 10, but the choices your child makes over the next year or two, including the courses and subjects they choose to study when they leave school, could have a big impact on the jobs and courses they can go on to do in the future. If your child is interested in going to university they could be applying in just a couple of years, and this programme will support them to make informed decisions. This project does not cost anything for your child to take part and is fully funded by GMHigher.

What does the project involve?

Your child will take part in a range of online activities and discussions to help them find out more about college courses, apprenticeship opportunities, university-level courses, and much more! Your child will be matched to a Student Ambassador who will be their mentor. Student mentors are current university-level students and have lots of useful experiences to share. Student mentors are well trained and are supported by their institution.

Why has my child been invited to take part?

The school has invited your child to take part because they have the potential to study at a higher level if they choose to do so. They also think they might like to know more about their future options and would enjoy taking part.



How will my child benefit?

Studies suggest that this kind of project helps young people find out about the opportunities open to them and encourages them to do well at school and beyond. We hope the project will help your child to make informed decisions about what to do after school and encourage them to think about their future.

When is this project taking place?

Your child will take part in a **five-week project starting after the Easter break** with an induction week on the **w/c 25th April 2022** and will end **w/c 30th May 2022**.

Is the platform safe?

Your child will message their mentor through the 'Brightside' platform. This is a secure messaging platform, where all conversations are monitored, and messages are moderated by members of staff. The platform does not use video or audio for your child to engage with their mentor, just 1-2-1 messages. All of our mentors are DBS checked. For more information on safeguarding and privacy see: gmhigher.ac.uk/events/go-further-mentoring-programme

What do I need to do now?

The school may ask you to complete an additional form to say your child can participate, although this is not the case in every school. Your child will be sent a link to sign up, where they can add their interests, and hobbies so they can be matched to the best mentor for them. You may want to talk to your child about the project and the kinds of things they are learning each week. If you have questions about the project please speak to your child's school directly.

If you would like to know more about Greater Manchester Higher or have questions about options open to your child, please go to: gmhigher.ac.uk/parents-and-carers/

