

IntoUniversity North Islington

We are delighted to announce that this month we will be opening our 12th London centre, in the Borough of Islington, expanding the **IntoUniversity** network to 22 centres. Our North Islington centre will be part-funded by a consortium of four independent schools over the next three years: Westminster School, St Paul's Girls' School, City of London School and Eton College. In this piece, we hear from each of the Heads as to why they have chosen to support **IntoUniversity** and, specifically, our work in Islington.



**Patrick Derham, Head Master, Westminster School
Vice-Chair of Trustees, IntoUniversity**

My involvement with **IntoUniversity** goes back over ten years. It has been a privilege for me to have seen it grow into what is a groundbreaking national charity that is dealing with the very real issues of inequality, disadvantage and social mobility that are the greatest challenges facing our society.

I am quite clear that my role as Vice-Chair of Trustees is one of the most satisfying parts of my working life. **IntoUniversity** is transforming lives and that transformation is at the heart of what all successful educational institutions aspire to do.

Enabling all young people to become authors of their own life stories.

I am thrilled that four leading and successful independent schools have come together to support this new **IntoUniversity** centre in Islington. All four schools recognise that we have a part to play in enabling all young people to become authors of their own life stories. I am grateful to my colleagues and each of them has written passionately about why they wanted to be part of the **IntoUniversity** story.



**Clarissa Farr, High Mistress,
St Paul's Girls' School**

As the Head of a selective, academic independent school I've always been uncomfortable about the UK's poor record for promoting social mobility. We have our own bursary programme with 11% of our pupils currently receiving funding and through that, I've seen first-hand how access to an excellent education can change a life. One of our bursary students who having read for a degree in Maths and now working in Insurance, described her education at St Paul's as "the most incredible, life-changing gift I could ever have received." Her words were in my mind when St Paul's Girls' School was approached to support the new **IntoUniversity** centre in North Islington.

It's easy to deploy resources thinly over many projects: what we wanted was to build a long-term commitment to something that would produce lasting results over time. When I visited the premises for the new centre, walking there from the underground station I began thinking about the children living in the borough and what the centre might do for them: lifting their aspirations and widening their horizons. I was struck to be told by the **IntoUniversity** staff that many would never have left their home area, even to travel to central London, never mind having a day at the seaside. Everyone, whatever their background, should be encouraged to embrace new experiences and aim high.

The philosophy of **IntoUniversity** has aspiration at its heart: looking above and beyond what is immediate, to what might be – to what you might do and become, through aiming for a university education. **IntoUniversity** has already changed many young people's lives for the better and we are proud to be a part of this new initiative.



**Simon Henderson, Head Master,
Eton College**

Eton College is delighted to be supporting the Islington centre of **IntoUniversity**. As Head Master I believe passionately in the power of education to change lives. The best cultures draw on multiple thoughts, multiple backgrounds and multiple perspectives and it is crucial for this country that our talented young people are able to fully develop those talents, whatever their personal circumstances.

Those currently at school will end up doing multiple jobs, many of which have not been invented yet – because no-one has thought of them – or will be done in very different ways to how they are currently. This means that education is more important than ever. We need a generation of young people with knowledge and skills, but also with ambition and resolve. We need them to be creative and to be willing to think for themselves. We need them to have the confidence to challenge themselves to do things they can't quite do yet and to have the resilience to deal with setbacks. We need them to have integrity and the moral courage to stand up for what they believe in. We need them to be excellent communicators, to embrace working with and learning from others and to develop an open-minded and outward-looking mentality, so that they are ready and willing to contribute to their wider community.

A university education helps young people develop all these things, but sometimes individuals need a little help along the way and it is through the great work of organisations such as **IntoUniversity** that aspirations can be raised, talent can be fulfilled and social mobility can improve. This benefits not just the young people directly involved in these programmes, but also benefits their families, their communities and society at large.



**Sarah Fletcher, Head,
City of London School**

I am delighted that my school will be a founding partner of a new **IntoUniversity** centre in Islington. Islington is one of the most polarised boroughs in London, with disparities in wealth and future prospects clearly evident. The opportunity to be part of a new venture here is particularly welcome, as we draw many of our own pupils from this area. This partnership will give us the chance to increase our impact in the local community, with the project directly benefiting hundreds of boys and girls every year.

City of London School has a long history of service and of generosity to others. 10% of our boys are on full fee assistance, living proof that success in life does not have to be limited by background or financial means, but that being given the opportunity to thrive can make all the difference. As educators we see it all the time: success is an interdependent mix of skills and resources. At its base is natural talent, in whatever field that may be. The will to work is indispensable, as is the opportunity to study in peace and quiet, and to discuss ideas with like-minded people. The acquisition of knowledge and understanding is essential if the world is to be navigated with any kind of assurance. The development of 'soft' or 'essential' skills paves the way to working with others, and gives confidence in presentation. Perhaps most importantly, there has to be encouragement to see beyond the present, so that the mirror which reflects back the here and now, transforms into a window to a different future. **IntoUniversity** provides a wonderful service in all these respects.

The City of London Schools, which include primary and secondary Academies, alongside the three independent schools, are already committed to working together to improve education in London. The country needs to nurture its talent and to find fresh ideas and inspiration from across the social spectrum if it is to thrive. Encouraging social mobility should not be a choice, but an imperative, and I am therefore proud to support **IntoUniversity** in its mission.



We would love to hear your feedback about *aspire*.

To get in touch or to find out more about **IntoUniversity** please visit our website www.intouniversity.org, drop Farah an email at farah.ahmad@intouniversity.org or call us on **020 7243 0242**.

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