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## **Widening Horizons:**

How London organisations are enriching the education  
of young people

**MAYOR OF LONDON**

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## Foreword

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Over the last two and a half years I have had the opportunity to visit a number of educational and cultural projects working with young people in the capital.

I have been struck by the variety and quality of activities on offer and by the dedication of staff and students who attend, often at weekends and after school.

The impact of this additional weekend and after school education is seen in the improved confidence, raised aspirations and new skills gained by the young people who take part, often from some of the most challenging backgrounds in the city.

This pamphlet is part of a wider campaign by the Mayor of London to support and raise the profile of the hundreds of charities and community organisations offering this kind of supplementary educational and cultural activity so that they can reach out to more young people and improve their life chances.

It features just a few of the bodies working in London, but we hope it gives a sense of the wide range of activities on offer and raises

awareness of the contribution these organisations are making to the future of the capital.

Whether you are a teacher, parent, pupil or from a grant making body, we hope that this short guide will open your eyes to the rich array of educational opportunities out there for young people today and inspire you to get involved.

Munira Mirza

**Mayoral Advisor on Arts and Culture**

## Introduction

Every day after school and on every Saturday in London thousands of children and young people attend clubs and classes to further their education and learn new skills outside of their normal school environment.

Whether they are practicing a new musical instrument, learning ballet or reciting Latin, all these children are using their spare time to broaden their educational horizons and reach their potential.

The organisations providing these activities are making a huge difference to the life chances of these young people, many of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds and would otherwise not have access to such a wide range of additional educational and cultural experiences.

Providers of supplementary activities can vary from community based organisations to theatres and music venues but what they all share in common is the ability to make an impact on the lives of the children involved; raising aspirations, widening horizons and improving academic and social outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

Using a mixture of charitable funding, business partnerships and local authority support the projects highlighted in this guide provide free or low-cost education and cultural

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activities to hundreds of young Londoners and provide an important educational ‘backbone’ for many children.

There are of course many more organisations doing brilliant work across London than those we could include in this short pamphlet.<sup>2</sup> The aim is simply to shine a light on the work being done in the sector and to give a flavour of the range of learning available, both in terms of geographical spread and type of activity.

### **The Mayor’s Role**

The Mayor is determined to increase opportunities for – and promote the aspirations of – children and young people in London, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. He knows that the voluntary sector and community based organisations can, and do, play a huge part in this process and wants to help create the right environment to grow and sustain the ‘Big Society’ in London.

The Greater London Authority does not have any specific statutory powers in education and

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children's services but the Mayor has developed a range of policies and initiatives which support his objectives for young Londoners (see 'Young Londoners – successful futures' (July 2010)).

This pamphlet and related activity directly supports and develops further this vision, specifically in relation to the Mayoral priority on promoting 'Healthy living, sport and culture' through out of school activity.



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for major financial investment in this area is restricted. The Mayor is therefore actively seeking to encourage private sector support and partnerships.

The Mayor is acutely aware that it is only through collaboration and partnership, and by building a stronger society, that we can achieve our objectives to make London the best big city on earth in which economic opportunity and talent from all backgrounds can thrive.

<sup>1</sup> Eight out of ten pupils who attend supplementary schools feel it helps them with their mainstream school work (DfES, 2001). More evidence on the impact of supplementary education can be found here: <http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR210.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> For more information please visit the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education, part of ContinYou - [http://www.continyou.org.uk/children\\_and\\_families/supplementary\\_education](http://www.continyou.org.uk/children_and_families/supplementary_education)

## What we are doing

The Mayor is committed to providing London-wide strategic support for supplementary educational activity. First, by raising the profile of the sector and organisations involved (the purpose of this guide and related reception event), and second, by supporting existing organisations to expand, as well as new ones to emerge.

In the current tight public spending environment the Mayor's scope

## Civitas Schools

Founded 2005.

Locations: Camberwell,  
Hammersmith, Bethnal Green,  
Kilburn, King's Cross, Wapping  
Website and further info:

**[www.saturdayschools.net](http://www.saturdayschools.net)**

Providing supplementary school tuition in core curriculum subjects so all children can reach their potential.

Registered Charity No: 1085494

Many children in London are still not reaching their potential or gaining the skills they need to get on in life - particularly core skills in English and maths. These children disproportionately come from disadvantaged backgrounds and their parents cannot afford expensive private tuition to help them catch up.

Civitas, an independent think tank, recognized this problem and in 2005 started setting up a network of after-school and Saturday schools across the country. Their primary focus is on providing low cost supplementary English and maths lessons to children who require extra educational support.

Three hundred and fifty London-based children aged between six and eleven now attend weekly lessons in English and Maths outside regular school hours. Many of the children are underachieving academically, some significantly so, but they are attentive and eager to learn.

The organisation places enormous emphasis on the basic skills of reading, writing, grammar and

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arithmetic. Progress of the pupils is independently monitored by the University of Durham and the average increase in age score across the Civitas Schools in the 2008/09 academic year was one year and six months in their 'English ages' and one year and three months in their 'Maths ages'.

Civitas now runs seventeen schools throughout England, including eleven in London. The classes take place in the heart of London communities – in church halls, schools and community centres. Dedicated teachers, traditional teaching methods and small class sizes ensure that every child receives the best possible support with their education.

Civitas also run a Summer School, which in August 2010 had 60 pupils who received two weeks full-time teaching. Teaching is complimented by cultural outings to attractions such as the Natural History Museum, Greenwich Royal Observatory and the Tower of London.

Civitas do not accept any public funding and rely entirely upon charitable donations to fund their schools. Civitas are actively increasing the numbers of supplementary schools and are always seeking new sponsors and donations for the project

*The Stationers' School is very affordable so I've been able to bring my sons along. The parents in the community rely on this project to bring our children up to speed with their studies – we can't always help them ourselves*

**Halimi Ali, parent of two sons at a Civitas school**



# Generating Genius

Founded 2004-05

Locations: Lewisham, Islington,  
Hackney, Tower Hamlets

Website and more info:

**[www.generatinggenius.org.uk](http://www.generatinggenius.org.uk)**

A project to create the next  
generation of doctors, engineers  
and research scientists.

Registered Charity No: 1107777

The main objective of Generating Genius is to increase the social mobility of boys from deprived areas by opening their minds to the joys and experience of Science and Engineering.

The charity has a mission to encourage and develop under-privileged talented young students from diverse backgrounds, helping them on the way to professions in various fields of scientific endeavour, including engineering, medicine, bio-technology and life sciences. Too often these occupations are seen as out of reach or 'not for us' by children from these backgrounds.

The organisation does this by developing innovative and collaborative programmes with Universities as well as secondary schools, parents, teachers and education authorities. These programmes establish a career pathway for students (aged 13 years and older), facilitating early exposure to science careers, motivating and inspiring students early in their educational experience.

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Generating Genius uses residential summer schools based in a number of top British Universities, including Imperial College, to nurture students talented in Science and Engineering.

The boys start at age 11 or 12 and attend each summer for the next five years. The programme also encourages its students to mentor peers within their own schools and neighbourhoods. The majority of the boys on the programme receive an average of 10 GCSEs, mostly A-grades. Many go on to choose Science A-levels.

The charity not only works through universities but has taken its graduating 16-year olds to RAF Cranwell, the Officer training airbase and centre for aircraft engineering.

It works with private companies to deliver its programmes including Shell and is actively seeking new partnerships.

“My views on school have changed and I guess I have as well. I don't know what my life would have been like without Generating Genius.”

**Marcus Nelson, aged 16**

## The Iris Project

Founded 2006

Locations: All inner London boroughs

Website and more info:

**[www.irismagazine.org](http://www.irismagazine.org)**

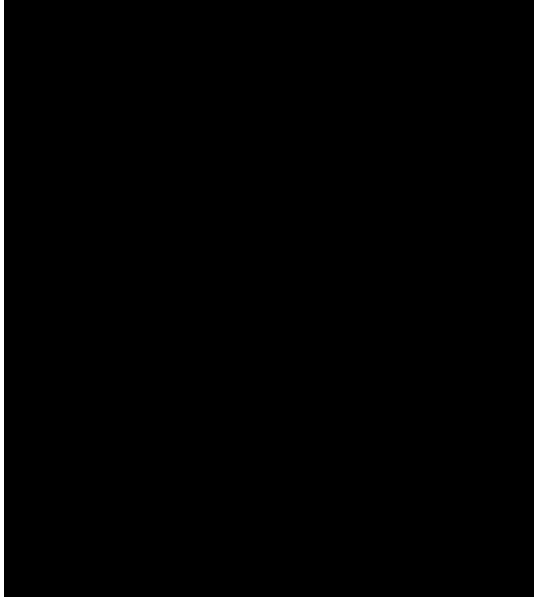
“ Giving London’s children the opportunity to learn about the languages and cultures of the ancient world. ”

Registered Charity No: 1121868

The Iris Project is a charity that promotes access to Classical subjects in London’s state schools. Currently, under 5 per cent of state primaries teach Latin compared with 40 per cent of independent primary schools. It works on the principle that the opportunity to learn about the fascinating languages, literature, histories and art of the Ancient World should be made available to all, regardless of background.

Over the past four years, the Project has offered ‘Latin through Literacy’ in over forty inner city state primary

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schools. In 2007/8, it piloted an ancient theatre project with year 6 and 7 students in state schools in the London Borough of Hackney, which has since expanded to other boroughs.

This Project enables students from University College London and King's College London to deliver a year long introductory Latin course to pupils from primary schools in inner London schools as part of the Key Stage Two Literacy curriculum. Pupils are introduced to Latin using a series of lesson plans which incorporate

hands-on activities and storytelling to give them a basic grounding in English and Latin grammar, and a taste of Latin myths and culture.

The Project works to bring out the connection between Latin, English and languages generally, as well as providing a grounding in ancient history and culture through exploration of myths and classical civilisation. This grounding in turn improves knowledge of the classical world, introduces themes such as mythology and its importance, and increases awareness of historical, social and political issues.

The Iris Project is wholly funded by charitable grants and private donations.

“ I find it fun and it's different from anything else I've done. I think Latin helps me most with writing in literacy lessons. ”

**Humayra, aged 10**

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# Leaders of Tomorrow

Founded 2002

Location: Peckham

More info:

[vallin.miller@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:vallin.miller@southwark.gov.uk)

Helping young Londoners confound, not conform to stereotypes.

Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) was set up by Vallin Miller, a former teacher, in 2002, as a self-help community group in Peckham. It works to close the attainment gap between Black young people and their peers by identifying, developing and nurturing leadership skills and a structured mentoring and coaching programme.

According to its founders it is “an anti-ghetto, grammar, baggy jeans, hoodies, baseball caps and any other accoutrements of ‘street bling culture’ initiative”, with a mission to raise the academic achievement of predominantly Black Caribbean learners through activities which support schools’ academic expectations as well as personal, social and emotional development.

The programme identifies young people aged 13-19 who show leadership potential but need additional support to develop. Since it was established, it has supported over 1,000 young people in Peckham and beyond.



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Alongside weekly after-school sessions, it offers regular trips to the National Theatre, the British Museum and other cultural institutions, visits to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and participation at annual empowering leadership conferences in America; eight so far!

The programme also offers residentials, international youth education exchanges, volunteering and one-to-one mentoring support to those who are at risk from school exclusions.

Alumni of the scheme have gone on to attend top universities or earn internships at City firms. Last summer, one young leader

won one of the prestigious Prime Minister's global fellowship travel scholarships and spent six weeks in Brazil looking at businesses and their impact on world economies.

LOT is supported by Southwark Council's children's services and its leadership, innovation and learning support division. It also works with private companies such as British Airways who recently sponsored LOT young people by donating complimentary tickets for the group to attend business conferences in New Orleans and Los Angeles.

Having attended a number of LOT events, I can vouch for the excellent work they are doing to help young South Londoners understand the real value of education. What's remarkable is the range of things Vallin and Lindsay offer - all geared toward broadening the horizons of a group of youngsters whose aspirations are all too frequently constrained by their local environment.

**Henry Bonsu, broadcaster and founder of Colourful Radio**

# London Music Masters

Founded 2007

Location: Lambeth

Website and more info:

**[www.londonmusicmasters.org](http://www.londonmusicmasters.org)**

Building bridges to musical excellence for children in inner city schools.

Registered charity no. 1119372

London Music Masters (LMM) is building bridges to musical excellence through the Bridge Project, a long term music education programme for children.

The Project is active in inner city London schools working with children and family groups from diverse backgrounds, many of which are under-represented in professional classical music ensembles and who would otherwise not get the chance to engage in classical music. There are currently 300 children in the programme aged five to nine.

The Project involves weekly musicianship classes where the children learn the foundational elements of music-making through song, movement, story and play. After a year, the children move onto the violin, taking with them a well-developed sense of pitch and rhythm honed through the musicianship sessions. The programme starts afresh with each new intake of Reception children, so that in the long term the whole school engages in music making activities.

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The Bridge Project also organises choirs, social activities and visits to cultural events in the local area and further afield. It has developed links with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal College of Music, Southbank Centre, Wigmore Hall and US based Sphinx Organization, all of whom help facilitate performance opportunities for children in some of London's magnificent concert venues.

In addition, the LMM Awards are given every three years to three extremely talented violinists aged 18-28. These 'LMM Artists' are invaluable role models and sources of inspiration to the children in the Bridge Project. Each Artist is connected to a school and builds a relationship with the children from that school during their tenure as an award holder.

LMM is helping to create an artistic community committed to developing audiences and performers for the future who represent the full life and vibrancy of London in the 21st century. LMM offers opportunities

to trusts, businesses and individuals to contribute to its ground breaking education work and hopes to open a new project in Westminster in 2011.

The Bridge Project is providing ongoing creative opportunities that would otherwise simply be out of reach

**Tim Walker, Chief Executive & Artistic Director, London Philharmonic Orchestra**

# London Russian Ballet School

Founded 2004

Location: Clapham

Website and more info: [www.londonrussianballetschool.com](http://www.londonrussianballetschool.com)

Offering the discipline and beauty of Russian ballet training to young Londoners.

Registered Charity Number 1108465

The London Russian Ballet School (LRBS) was started four years ago by Evgeny Goremykin, a former principal of the Bolshoi Ballet, in one tiny studio on a third of an acre in Clapham - one of the most deprived and densely populated London boroughs.

With a second studio added in 2008 the School now runs over 46 ballet and Russian workout classes a week and has 280 students. The makeup of classes mirrors the ethnic diversity of the street. Fee paying students, at all ages and levels take class alongside those who are unable to pay. There are seven bursary students, for whom academic education is provided. Students performed in front of over two thousand people in 2009.

As well as teaching children at its studios, LRBS provides outreach work to 150 children through after-school classes in Lambeth, where it has established links to mainstream schools. They perform four times a term in local primary schools. The London Russian Ballet School gives

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young people the opportunity to learn an activity not offered on the National Curriculum, while the Bursary students who run the classes are excellent role models.

The School aspires to create an accredited, vocational Russian Ballet school in Lambeth with attendance from across the London borough and beyond. It has ambitions to re-develop its existing building to create an innovative and inspirational space with four very large studios and performance area, arts library, staff resources and classroom facilities. It is an independent organisation that

is predominantly funded from private sources.

“What they offer is more than just Ballet. It is a form of discipline and routine that many children could benefit from.”

**An audience member**

# The Prince's Drawing School

Founded 2000

Location: Southwark, Newham,  
Haringey, Westminster, Lewisham,  
Kensington and Chelsea, Hackney  
Website and more info:

[www.princesdrawingschool.org](http://www.princesdrawingschool.org)

Opening doors to careers in art,  
design, architecture, fashion,  
science, and engineering.

Registered Charity No: 1101538

The Prince's Drawing School provides serious, sustained tuition and mentoring for children aged 10-18, from all backgrounds, who have a passion or aptitude for drawing.

This kind of support is rarely available and when it is, it often requires financial or other commitments beyond the means of less well-off families. And while there are many excellent programmes which expose children to the arts in London, this School is different because it targets children with an aptitude and invests in building their skills over the long-term.

The School principally works with children through 'Drawing Clubs'; weekly drawing sessions taught by professional, practising artists and designers – provided for free to children who are chosen by their state school teachers. The Prince's Drawing School currently works with seven local authorities in London; in Southwark, Newham, Haringey, Westminster, Lewisham, Kensington and Chelsea, Hackney – and soon with Tower Hamlets and Camden.

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The Drawing Clubs environment enables a holistic, intensive and long-term approach to learning where each participant is able to develop an individual, mentoring relationship with their tutors. This is often of particular benefit to students who struggle to reach their potential in school environments. As well as their tutors, students learn from committed and like-minded peers at their Club, often developing friendships across age-groups and schools.

Through the School's unique approach to teaching drawing, students are encouraged to take risks whilst exploring and developing their personal language of drawing. The School takes drawing from observation as a starting point, and expands through a wide range of subject matters, materials and techniques.

The tutors at the Clubs are all recent postgraduates of The Prince's Drawing School, so the programme is also building the teaching and mentoring skills of a new generation of drawing tutors, who also act as excellent role models for the 10-18 year olds.

The Prince's Drawing School, established in 2000, aims to raise the standard and profile of drawing through teaching and practice. It relies on funding from trusts and foundations, private individuals as well as some funding from local authorities.

Drawing Club is great. When I come, I forget all my troubles. Drawing makes me feel like I'm part of the universe.

**Kelvin, age 11**



## Roundhouse

Founded 1846

Re-opened 2006

Location: Camden

Website and more info:

[www.roundhouse.org.uk](http://www.roundhouse.org.uk)

“ Giving young people a chance to discover and develop their creativity and ambitions. ”

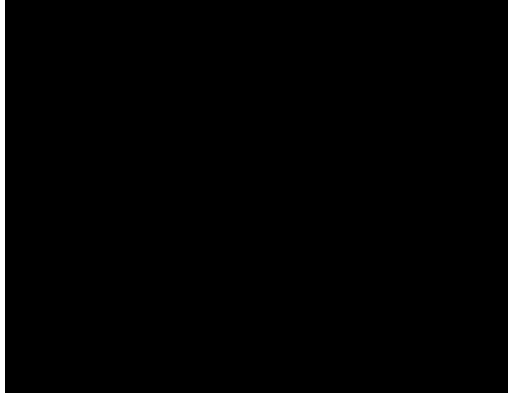
Registered Charity No: 1071487

The Roundhouse is a performing arts venue and creative centre for young people. It aims to nurture, develop and present the best in contemporary arts. Since re-opening in 2006 it has provided over 22,000 learning opportunities for young people with over 1,000 creative projects on offer.

It does this by offering 11-25 year-olds seven days a week, year-round open access to a range of creative opportunities in performing arts, radio, music, film/TV, digital media and design. They have the chance to use state-of-the-art facilities including a radio station, a music recording studio and a TV production suite.

The Roundhouse Choir exemplifies the emerging talent it nurtures. The

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Choir is made up of 15 singers aged 16-25, who meet every week to rehearse a wide range of a capella songs from pop to folk to gospel, and have performed both in the Roundhouse Main Space and in venues such as the Royal Festival Hall.

The Roundhouse also offers an annual open access programme which is made up of three 10 week terms (spring, summer holiday and autumn) with an average of 28 projects run weekly across various art forms, from Music Production, to Devising Drama, to Poetry Collective. Projects are also run during February half-term, Easter holidays and October half-term.

The organisation's outreach programme of bespoke projects is delivered on and off-site in partnership with social care organisations, community groups and schools in response to their service users' needs. This ensures that hard-to-reach and under-served young people are introduced to and benefit from participation in positive activities through the arts.

Vulnerable young people who are traditionally excluded from society are actively targeted, such as refugees and asylum seekers, homeless and looked after young people, minority ethnic groups, young offenders and those with mental ill-health. Since 2006, the Roundhouse has worked with over 3,850 young people on 219 projects from across London through this particular programme. The majority of its annual budget comes from a combination of fundraising activity and venue income.

  
By coming here I've been given a fresh start because I've been able to distance myself from those who brought me down and have made new friends.

**Louise, 15**



# Chickenshed

Founded 1974

Location: Enfield, Brixton, Tower Hamlets, Watford, Tottenham, Harrow, Barking and Dagenham  
Website and more info:

[www.chickenshed.org.uk](http://www.chickenshed.org.uk)

An inclusive theatre developing young talent.

Registered Charity No: 1012369

Chickenshed is a theatre company that started life in 1974 in an actual chicken shed!

It has grown to produce more than 1,000 performances of extraordinary theatre and runs weekly theatre workshops with children in London. What makes it unique is that it is an inclusive company where everyone is welcome, regardless of past or present educational experience or social background.

Chickenshed's unique inclusive performance work demonstrates, both at the theatre and in its ever growing touring programme, that excellence of performance is achievable with the most varied and diverse of casts.

The main theatre is in Enfield but there are now eleven other independent sheds in London. Most of these 'sheds' have grown from its outreach programmes, working in communities amongst young people. Chickenshed is one of the few places where young people attending both special schools and mainstream schools can come together to learn

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There is also an annual summer school for over-17s, which offers students the opportunity to get a unique insight into Chickenshed's artistic work and the inclusive theatre philosophy and practice that underpins it.

Chickenshed's education programme has received an 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted, with 98 per cent completing their course with a full diploma in a recent cohort.

Every Shed is different. But every piece of theatre created at Chickenshed shouts out the same thing: anyone can thrive in an environment where everyone is welcome.

The theatre also runs regular weekly Children's and Youth Theatre workshops for 600 people aged from five upwards and education courses for over 100 students.

Twice weekly, Chickenshed hosts 'Tales from the Shed', a production aimed at under-7s, that works creatively to improve literacy, numeracy, and communication skills.

It receives no statutory recurrent grant-funding for its artistic work from any UK Arts body.

Chickenshed must raise over £3million each year to fund the different services and programmes offered and only exists because of the passion, enthusiasm, commitment and belief of its supporters.

There's nothing else for it – Chickenshed must organise the world!

**Dame Judi Dench,**  
**Chickenshed Trustee**



# Futureversity

Founded 1995

Locations: Across London

Website and more info:

[www.futureversity.org](http://www.futureversity.org)



Raising the aspirations of young Londoners.

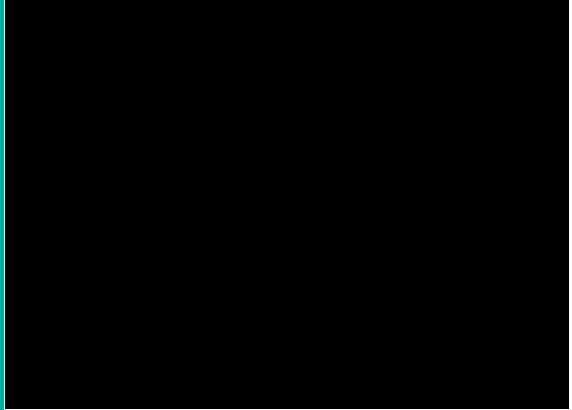


Registered Charity Number: 1048822

Futureversity offers free inspiring courses and opportunities for 11-25 year olds across London to develop the skills and self-belief they need to make the most of their lives. The youth charity works with some of the most disadvantaged and hard to reach young people in London.

Specific programmes include 'Job Ready', an 11-week employability project for 16-25 year olds not in education, employment or training which aims to equip these young people with the skills they need to re-enter the world of employment and education. What makes Job Ready exciting is that each course is run with a professional organisation. Previous businesses have included an international fashion house and

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investment banks in Canary Wharf. Professionals from these businesses come in and work closely with students, sharing their experiences of work and what they get out of it.

Futureversity also runs a trainee journalism scheme which involves producing Nang! Magazine. A team of 16-25 year olds get together regularly to discuss and plan the content. They track down the people they want to interview and write the articles themselves. Previous issues have featured interviews with big names including Sophie Dahl, Sven-Goran Eriksson, Dizzee Rascal and the Mayor of London himself!

There is also a Summer Programme with over 2,000 free arts, fashion, sports, life skills and business taster courses during the summer holidays, delivered to more than 15,000 young people from a rich mix of cultural backgrounds every year. In addition, Futureversity offers several youth volunteering programmes and a Youth Assessor initiative for 16-19 year olds to appraise the quality and consistency of courses, forming

an integral part of Futureversity's Quality Assurance Framework.

Many of the projects are accredited, enabling young people to gain recognised qualifications at the end of their activities, and all of Futureversity's initiatives have recorded outcomes with completion certificates awarded to recognise the achievements of young people.

The success of Futureversity is reflected in a collection of awards over the past 15 years, including the 2010 Third Sector Excellence Award for Increasing Employability & Skills; the National Lottery Big 7 Award for Best Education Project in 2009; and gaining the Bank of America Neighbourhood Builder Award in 2009. It has a mixed funding model and relies significantly on private funding.

It's come to an end all too soon.  
Futureversity = great experience + great people...

**Haroon, 20, Volunteer  
Youth Ambassador 2009/10**

## Further information

For more information on the Mayor's Youth strategy see 'Young Londoners – Successful futures' (July 2010):

**[www.london.gov.uk/publication/young-londoners-successful-futures](http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/young-londoners-successful-futures)**

For a study of Supplementary Schools in England see Department for Education Research Report 210:

**[www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR210.pdf](http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR210.pdf)**

For information and advice on setting up a Supplementary School please visit or contact the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education:

**[www.continyou.org.uk/children\\_and\\_families/supplementary\\_education](http://www.continyou.org.uk/children_and_families/supplementary_education)**

Please contact Ben Cackett at **[ben.cackett@london.gov.uk](mailto:ben.cackett@london.gov.uk)** if you would like further information on the work the Mayor of London is doing in this area.



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