Inspire the next generation
Our vision
That every young person regardless of background can make the most of education, unlocking their potential and creating a fairer society.

Our mission
We support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to access top universities, through a unique combination of tuition and in-school mentoring. We work with them to make good applications, get the grades and transition to university.
Established in 2008 by Alex Kelly
Alex enlisted his friends from the city to volunteer as tutors
Demonstrable success of the programme, leading to rapid growth
Now working in 35 schools across London, West Midlands, East Midlands and West Yorkshire
Over 1,000 tutors supporting over 1,900 students.
Young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are five times less likely to go to a top university in comparison to more advantaged students.

Our students were twice as likely to place at top universities in comparison to statistically similar students not on our programme.

The Access Project students that placed at top universities: 67%

Statistically similar students not on our programme: 35%
Why are we important now?

The move to online learning over the pandemic has exacerbated existing educational inequalities.

During the first school closure period between March and July 2020, government data estimates that there was a gap of 1.2 hours per day study time between the richest and poorest secondary school students.

This is a 33% increase from 0.9 hours before the pandemic.
Barriers to going to university

- Grades
- "It's not for me"
- Competitive applications
- Making it through the first year at university
Our programme

Online tutoring and one-to-one mentoring

Our dedicated online tutoring platform

Our mentor Adam with a student
Our theory of change
We support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to access top universities
Our theory of change explains how we do that...
Over four years between Years 10 and 13 our students receive:

One-to-one mentoring
Workshops
University trips
One-to-one academic tutoring
Activities

Short-term outcomes

This improves their:

- Knowledge about university
- Motivation to attend
- Independence
- Academic skills
Activities

Short-term outcomes

Intermediate outcomes

In turn this has a knock-on effect on their likelihood to:
- Apply to a top university
- Get a firm offer
- High attainment at GCSE and A level
Our students are twice as likely to place at a top university compared to similar students not on our programme
We work with students in their first year at university to ensure they enrol into their second year at university.
Find out more about our impact
theaccessproject.org.uk/our-impact
The whole scheme makes you think about what kind of aspirations you have, and how to be realistic about what you want. Tutoring isn’t just beneficial for your grades, it’s about being aware of your goals so you’re more likely to achieve them.

Chriso is now studying Law at King's College London.
Tutoring a student with us

- September to July during term time
- 60 minutes tutorial session per week at a time that fits your schedule, usually after school
- 30 minutes preparation time per week
- All tutorials take place online on our dedicated tutoring platform
What's in it for you?

- Reconnect with a subject you love
- Make a lasting impact on a young person’s future
- Gain valuable experience working with a young person
- Be a positive role model
- Develop your communication, mentoring, and planning skills
- Give back to your community
My first [student] was Ikram. She went on to university at King’s College London. She’s now graduated from her Masters.

I always felt like she was going to do well. She had the right attitude even when I first met her.

Vicky has volunteered for seven years
We need more people from disadvantaged backgrounds to get into higher positions, into decision making.

They should have those opportunities as much as somebody who went to Eton.

Josh has been tutoring in Physics for almost three years. He studied at The Queen’s College, University of Oxford, one of our newest partners.
Subjects in demand

- Maths
- Chemistry
- English
- Biology
- Physics
- History
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- Economics
- Politics

A level only
Our partners

Our volunteering programme is trusted by businesses and universities across the UK

- Bloomberg
- Deloitte
- KPMG
- Imperial College London
- The Mammal Society
- Magdalen College, University of Oxford
- The Queen’s Nursing Institute
- KPMG
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- SOAS, University of London
- The British Computing Society
- University of Cambridge
- Barclays
- Keble College, University of Oxford
- Imperial College London
- Portable
- The Queen’s Nursing Institute
- UCL

... and more
Our students...

achieved almost a grade higher than expected in their best 3 A levels

55% of our students met or exceeded 136 total UCAS points (AAB at A level) in 2021

achieved almost a grade higher in their tutored subject in GCSE

77% of our students achieved a grade 6 or above in their tutored subject.
Where our students live

We work in 35 schools across London, West Midlands, East Midlands and West Yorkshire.

We support over 1,900 students.

96% of our young people come from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

- London: 23 schools
- West Midlands: 6 schools
- East Midlands: 4 schools
- West Yorkshire: 2 schools
In partnership with The Queens College, Oxford we will be expanding into four new schools - bringing tutoring, mentoring and much needed university application support to 160 new students.
Who are the young people you'd be tutoring?

Our students come from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2020/21:

- 51% were eligible for Pupil Premium
- 35% were eligible for Free School meals
- 1% were in care or care leavers
Your journey to becoming a tutor

1. Application and personal references
2. Online safeguarding
3. Training and DBS
4. Invitation to be matched
5. First communication
6. Tutoring starts
We support you to be a great tutor

- Fun, interactive training
- Webinars and resources
- Tutorial drop-ins
- Support from a University Access Officer
- Online platform support
- Volunteer handbook
I’m not just doing this in my bedroom by myself, pretending to be a tutor. I’m supported to be a good tutor.

[My University Access Officer] Penny shadowed my tutorials and gave me constructive feedback. She gave me actionable things that I could take into my next tutorial. I am so grateful to have that support.

Andrea, The Access Project tutor

Andrea has been tutoring with The Access Project since the first COVID-19 lockdown
Questions?
Apply on our website

Go to theaccessproject.org.uk/apply

The application takes about five minutes to complete

You will need to hand:
- Your education history
- Motivations to apply
- Two character references including contact details

Submit your application and a member of the Volunteer Team will be in touch

Don't be a stranger

volunteering@theaccessproject.org.uk

@AccessProjectUK

TheAccessProjectUK

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The Access Project