



The Young Talent programme, delivered in partnership with MCR Pathways, is a school-based 1:1 mentoring programme that connects young people who need additional encouragement, with adult mentors.

MCR recruits and trains volunteer mentors who are matched with a young person based on personality, interests and career aspirations. Mentors meet with their young person at their school for just one hour a week and provide a compassionate, listening ear. Mentors help their young person engage with their education and build the self-belief they need to progress onto positive destinations such as further education, higher education or employment. For this, MCR are looking for the local community to become mentors. For more information and to become a mentor in one of the Hertfordshire schools, please visit [MCR Pathways England](#).

The Young Talent programme also delivers Year 7 and Year 8 weekly group work sessions. These are focused primarily on building confidence, health & wellbeing, and developing life and work skills. This allows the Pathways Coordinator to build trust and an individual relationship with each young person, preparing them for mentoring when they reach Year 9.

The school's Pathways Coordinator develops, facilitates and oversees the individual requirements of each pupil they work with. The Young Talent programme is a highly effective way for young people to identify and build on their strengths, achieve goals and realise their full potential.

Since the introduction of the programme in Hertfordshire schools in 2021, 1 or more suspensions for participating young people saw a reduction of **38%**, and in the academic year of 2023, amongst the young people who had met with their mentor 10 or more times, attendance at school increased by **+2.23%**.

"I feel like I am a happier person since meeting my mentor" - Young Person, Barclay Academy

"Being a mentor has been incredibly rewarding. It's a privilege to watch my young person grow in confidence, and to know that I've played a small part in their journey" - Mentor, Marriotts School

"I love my mentor. She helped me figure out how to express myself more without getting into trouble and was a great person to talk to" - Young Person, Nobel School

"The best thing about mentoring is seeing your mentee change and grow. Sometimes you can almost see the penny drop when you're talking to them and you know they are starting to see a different way of thinking about things or approaching a problem. It's also really good fun spending time with my mentee who has a lot of energy and a great sense of humour!" - Mentor, Simon Balle School