



21st October 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

Brilliant Club – Launch Trip Friday 14th November 2014

We are delighted to inform you that your child has been selected to take part in the Scholars Programme this autumn. The Scholars Programme is an opportunity for pupils to gain the knowledge, skills and ambition to help them secure places at top universities.

What is the Scholars Programme?

The Scholars Programme is an in-school academic programme for selected pupils. It is designed to give pupils exposure to a genuine academic environment and to experience learning in the style of a university student. Pupils will work closely with a PhD Tutor, who is either studying to gain a PhD or already has one, in a series of small group university-style tutorials to study a 'super-curricular' course that explores topics they may not usually study in the school curriculum. Topics in the past have included Biology, English, History, Maths and Philosophy. During the tutorials pupils will complete readings and assignments that stretch them to work at one level above their current key stage, including a 1,500 word university-style final assignment or an equivalent problem set. The Scholars Programme also takes pupils on trips to two highly-selective universities. This gives pupils the opportunity to meet current undergraduates, tour the university and receive information, advice and guidance from university outreach staff.

What is The Brilliant Club?

The Scholars Programme is run by The Brilliant Club, an award winning charity that seeks to increase fair access to highly-selective universities. The Brilliant Club is a national programme, and we are currently working with over 5, 000 pupils in 200 schools across the country and 20 of the top third of universities in the UK. For more information about The Brilliant Club visit www.thebrilliantclub.org

Why has my child been selected to take part in the Scholars Programme?

Your child's teachers have identified them as having the potential to make a successful application to one of the UK's most selective universities. Your child has been selected because they have demonstrated the skills and attitude to make the most of the exciting opportunity to work closely with a university researcher. The Brilliant Club knows that university may not be for everyone, but we exist to give children an experience of university learning to help them make an informed decision when they reach the age of 18.

Sharing pupil and personal information

In order to track our progress and to help us improve our programmes – ensuring that we are providing your child with the best possible experience – please complete the registration form attached and return it with the permission slip for the Launch Trip to the school.

Launch Trip

The Launch Trip will take place at **Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge** on **Friday 14th November 2014**. The Launch Trip is run in partnership with the host university and will involve a tour of the campus, a study skills session and the chance to meet and ask questions of current students and admissions staff at the university.



At the Launch Trip the pupils will also have their first tutorial with their PhD tutor in the academic setting of the university. If your child is able to take part in this trip please complete the permission slip over the page and return it to the school as soon as possible. There will be no charge associated with this trip and lunch will be provided on the day. If your child has any medical conditions or dietary requirements it is important to let us know on the reply slip below so these can be effectively catered for.

The students will travel by coach to the university, we aim to leave the school at 8.15am and return at 5.30pm. A lunch will be provided for students, but I recommend that they bring a bottle of water. Students who do not return the below permission slip will not be able to attend the trip.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Askoolum
Coordinator for the More able

Permission slip

I give permission for my child to take part in the **Scholars Programme Launch Trip on 14th November 2014** as outlined above.

Pupil name: _____

Emergency contact:

_____ Phone: _____

Medical conditions: _____

Dietary requirements: _____

Signature: _____ Date of signature: _____

Please return this form to Mr Askoolum