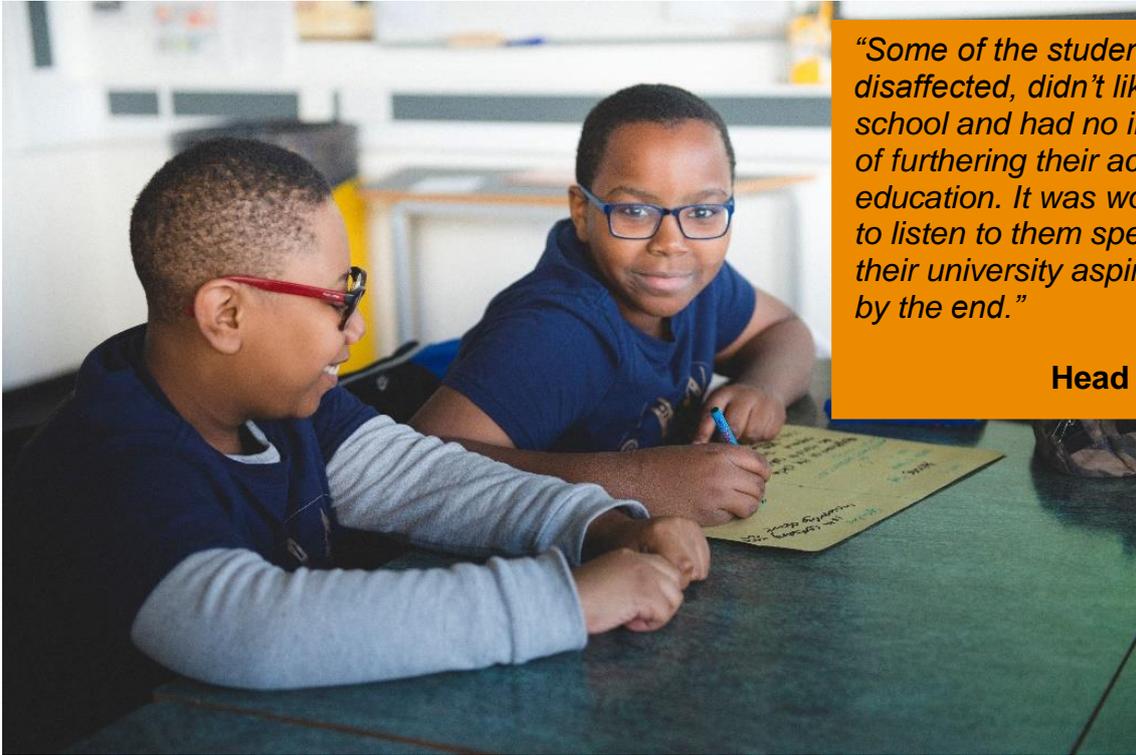




## March 2016 Report



*“Some of the students were disaffected, didn’t like school and had no intention of furthering their academic education. It was wonderful to listen to them speak of their university aspirations by the end.”*

**Head Teacher**

### **About SHINE**

In the UK today, just one in three children from the poorest homes will achieve 5 good GCSE grades, leaving them without the basics they need to access further education or secure a good job.

At SHINE we believe that all children should have the chance to succeed irrespective of their background or family income.

To this end, we support life changing education programmes after school, in the holidays, and at the weekend, helping children gain the extra support they need to thrive at school and beyond.

“Giving kids from poor communities some decent opportunities to really succeed at school has always been an incredibly worthwhile cause. To get them a good job, it’s essential that these children leave school with the best possible grades and that makes SHINE’s work even more important than ever.”

**Nick Robinson, SHINE Patron**

### **A Unique Opportunity**

Children who grow up poor are four times more likely to be poor adults – and to become the parents of the next generation of children in poverty. These children are trapped in a cycle of poverty, without the education and qualifications they need to climb out and build a better life.



The children hit hardest are the ones with the greatest potential. Struggling against social forces beyond their control, they never achieve the academic results they

need to realise their full – sometimes, brilliant – potential. Too often, their passion to learn is gone forever by the time they leave primary school; worn down by adversity and a lack of role models. By age 15, the attainment gap between the brightest boys from poor families in comparison to those from more advantageous backgrounds is two and a half years.

This isn’t just a personal tragedy for those children who will never discover the means and confidence to use their talents in the workplace. It is a huge loss for our society and economy too, as we never get to benefit from their potential and abilities.

**By supporting this project, you have given the brightest children, in the greatest need, a chance to break down the barriers holding them back and shine.**

Through unique partnerships with independent schools in their area, we bring learning alive for deprived children in fresh, exciting and motivating ways – and with the very best facilities and teaching. Over 10 weeks on a Saturday, these children have a chance to glimpse what they are capable of and to think beyond the limitations others may have set for them.

We work with inspired and inspiring teachers to help bring them exciting ideas into the classroom on a Saturday. This helps to awaken and engage the minds of children who have never had the chance to really use their abilities before. The children are also supported by sixth form students who provide additional one-to-one

tuition, and most importantly, a positive young role model for learning – for some this will be the first they have ever known.

This changes their outlook and the way they think. It changes their aspirations. And it starts to change their lives.

### **Robert's story**

After Robert's parents separated and his dad disappeared, his mum struggled to raise her son by herself. Feeling angry and frustrated, Robert's distress badly affected his self-confidence and led to him becoming disruptive at home and at school.



Happily for Robert, he was invited to join Serious Fun on Saturday, an innovative partnership between state and independent schools. Working with SHINE, independent schools open their doors to lend their teaching facilities and resources to children from local state schools who have been identified as gifted and talented, or who need an extra boost to help them fulfil their academic potential.

The sessions are designed with a clear focus on learning but with a deliberate emphasis on fun too. They give the children the chance to use first-class facilities and resources to enrich and extend their learning. They also get the opportunity to meet and mix with children from other schools and of other ages.

Thanks to Serious Fun on Saturday, Robert's confidence improved in a matter of weeks. He changed from being in trouble with his peers to working well in teams and showing signs of natural leadership. He was repeatedly nominated for the Learner of the Week at SHINE and by the end of the school year he'd gone up a level in reading. He's even talking about going to college when he leaves school.

Thankfully, there are many other success stories just like Robert's. The beauty of Serious Fun is that in those few hours each week, the children have a chance to glimpse what they are capable of and reach that little bit higher.

*"Many of our pupils suffer from a lack of aspirations and this project has ensured that families can look to the future with a greater sense of purpose and hope."*

**Head Teacher**

## Impact

In the 2014-15 academic year, we ran 16 Serious Fun on Saturday projects, giving 449 children access to the very best teaching resources that they would otherwise never have the opportunity to experience.

Some of the key highlights from this year are:

- At Croydon High School, over 73% of children made better than expected progress in maths, writing and reading.
- Westminster Summer School: 95% of students said they had improved their interview skills, and all of them were encouraged to work harder towards university.
- 85% of parents agreed that SHINE had a positive impact on their child's attainment at primary school.
- At Sheffield High School, all of the students made progress in maths and English and 7 children have so far taken up fully funded places at Sheffield High School since attending the programme.

*"You are providing opportunities that are genuinely transforming the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in our society."*

**Head teacher**

