



HABS ASPIRE

Your guide to Habs Aspire and how to sign up as a sixth form careers mentor



Habs
Aspire



Welcome to Habs Aspire

We have an ambitious goal – to be able to offer a mentor for every sixth form student attending a Haberdasher school. To achieve this, we need to significantly increase our pool of mentors and we hope that you can help.

Habs Aspire takes just **four hours a year** of video calls with a young person and whether you can volunteer yourself, or share this pack with a friend or colleague, all support is appreciated.

Feedback from mentors and mentees has consistently shown that mentees grow in confidence, clarity, and ambition - and mentors regularly tell us they find the experience just as rewarding, whatever stage of their own career they are at.

If you would like to find out more, or to put yourself forward as a mentor, please get in touch with the Habs Aspire team - we would be delighted to talk you through what's involved and answer any questions you may have.

With our thanks and very best wishes,



Arabella Gonzalez
Director for Schools



Naomi Barker
Head of Schools' Projects

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OUR PURPOSE

THE HABERDASHERS' COMPANY TODAY

Today, the Company is in the privileged position, thanks to benefactors both past and present, to continue with its educational and other charitable activities.

This supports the Company purpose to 'empower young people from every background to fulfil their potential through our schools and by supporting their communities'.

HABERDASHER SCHOOLS

There are four groups of Haberdasher schools located in London, Hertfordshire, Shropshire and Wales, and including state academies, state grammar and independent schools. The 12,000 students in the schools represent a breadth and diversity of background and experiences, all benefitting from one Haberdashers' community. Students from these 15 schools participate in Company programmes to aid their skill development and broaden their horizons, including the new Habs Aspire mentoring programme.

THE HABERDASHERS' ADVANTAGE

Programmes for staff and students at Haberdasher schools.

- Futures - careers and employability skills activities and opportunities for students
- Character - establishing a sense of community, character development and cultural capital for students
- Working Together - professional collaboration across the family of schools: for staff, leaders and governors



HABERDASHERS' CHARITY PARTNERS & CHURCHES

Every year the charitable foundations of the Haberdashers' Company are proud to distribute more than £1 million in grants. Our poverty relief programme includes support for the unemployed, homeless and ex-offenders as well as disadvantaged and 'at risk' young people. We also maintain our roots in the fashion industry through a range of innovative grants and scholarships.

Our portfolio of Haberdashers' schools' grants enables talented students to fulfil their potential. The final area of our support is for eight church patronages across England.

Young people are entering a challenging world: You can help

Now more than ever, young people need support from professionals like you.

68% of our sixth form students told us they were concerned about the impact of new technology on the job market. Similarly, fewer than **25%** of Habs Aspire mentees surveyed knew their options if their next steps do not go according to plan.

A negative view of the job market and future prospects is also reflected in social media and mainstream news. This builds a picture where young people are bombarded with negative messaging when seeking out information about their future.

How can you help? Become a mentor

Habs Aspire exists to connect students with mentors who help them navigate a challenging employment market, without losing confidence in their potential.

The data shows a clear disconnect between aspiration and access: young people want to succeed, but many lack the everyday contact with professionals and role models.

A structured mentoring relationship provides honest career insight, and the confidence that comes from being taken seriously by someone outside of school.





How to get started

Give 4 hours a year. Change a young person's future.

- Habs Aspire connects professional mentors with sixth formers across our schools in England and Wales
- Just four one-hour video calls a year, over two years - flexible and fits around your schedule
- You'll be matched with a student in Year 12 and support them through to their next steps
- No experience needed - just be a good listener, supportive, and ready to give honest advice

To get started you just need to complete these four steps:

1. Attend an info session and create your profile online
2. Attend a training webinar to learn more about how to be an excellent mentor
3. Complete an enhanced DBS check (we'll guide you through it)
4. Tell us about yourself so we can match you with the right student



Transforming futures through mentoring

Creating life-changing connections

Habs Aspire addresses a critical gap many young people face as they transition from education to careers. Students gain invaluable insights into different career paths, receive practical guidance on university applications and job searches, and develop the professional networks that can transform their futures. The programme's impact extends far beyond career advice—mentors become trusted advocates who help students believe in their own potential and navigate challenges with confidence.

Past Master Rupert Elliott, who championed the programme's creation, captures its essence perfectly: "When someone outside your circle shows an interest in you and your future, and commits to it, and gives practical advice and support – you can't put a price on that."

The programme's success is best measured through student voices. One Year 12 mentee reflects: "I think the Habs Aspire programme is one of the best things that happened to me in Year 12, I have gained so much from my mentor and can't even describe how grateful I am to have my mentor."

Another student addresses potential mentors directly: "For any existing or prospective mentors wondering if you will have an impact on a young person, trust me you will. I personally have benefitted so much."

Extending the reach: getting others involved

Lots of motivated young people looking for careers advice, means the need for mentors from a wide of industries is of critical importance. Habs Aspire can give you and your employer the opportunity to offer your time and experience to sixth formers looking to take their next steps in the wider world.

My team of colleagues at Barclays are always looking for interesting engagement opportunities. My current role as an Apprentice Finance Analyst meant that I had the opportunity to see if they might want to get involved in this great initiative.

At Barclays I was directed to our volunteering and citizenship team. We arranged a meeting to give them an overview of what the Haberdashers and Habs Aspire are all about. Following a productive meeting we were ready to go ahead and get my team mates involved!

I think that many of us can recognise that sixth form can be quite a difficult time, and from personal experience any guidance and support I received at that time was a big help. Having had some advice and guidance from Old Monmothians and Haberdashers in the past, I know first-hand the impact that these conversations can have. I'm sure that getting involved with Habs Aspire, will enrich not just the life of your mentee but also your own.

Nyasha Katsande, member of the Freedom







“Having a mentor to talk things through with, get advice from, and help me stay focused would make Sixth Form feel less stressful and more organised for me.”

-Habs Aspire mentee

