



IMPACT REPORT

July 2021 - July 2022

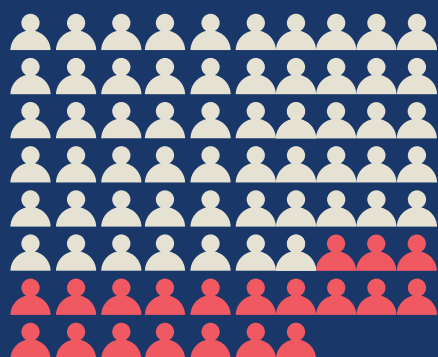
“Light Up Learning is a fantastic programme! For the last 5 years, it has continually created positive outcomes for the young people at Castlebrae. All mentors create strong relationships whilst motivating and inspiring young people to learn about something they enjoy in everyday life. Their targeted approach to igniting the love of learning gives young people the self-worth they need to show them they can achieve their full potential”

Deputy Head, Castlebrae High School

Founded in 2015, Light Up Learning is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC045701) providing one-to-one mentoring for young people aged thirteen to eighteen across Edinburgh and the Lothians. We are dedicated to igniting a love of learning in young people and transforming the nature of education in Scotland. We aim to address issues of unequal access to education and disengagement in the classroom by creating low-stress, supportive, and playful learning environments for young people who have experienced disadvantage. We encourage students to pursue their own interests and curiosities and place them in charge of their own learning. We help them develop the resources, skills, and contacts they need to achieve their potential.

THE NUMBERS

Over the reporting period:



SIX SCHOOLS

We increased our student numbers from **57 to 77** across the year.

We worked in a total of **6 schools** during the year. As well as continuing our work in Lasswade High School, Castlebrae Community High School, Armadale Academy, Wester Hailes High School and Leith Academy, we also started working with James Gillespie's High School in February 2022.

From August 2022 we will be:

3 NEW SCHOOLS

Working in **3 new schools**
- Earlston High School,
Broughton High School and
Craigroyston Community
High School.



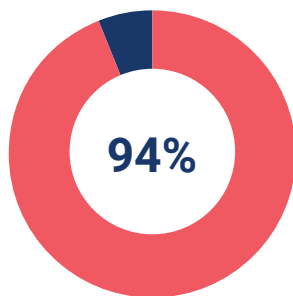
Adding **4 new mentors**
to our team.

125 STUDENTS

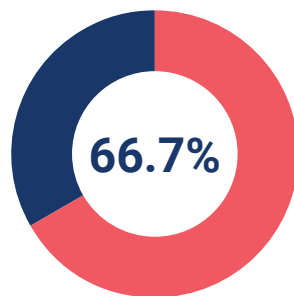
Increasing our student
numbers from **77 to 125!**
An increase of **62.3%**

OUR ANNUAL SURVEY RESULTS

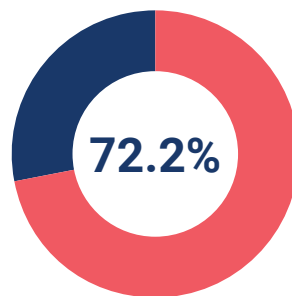
THE TEACHERS



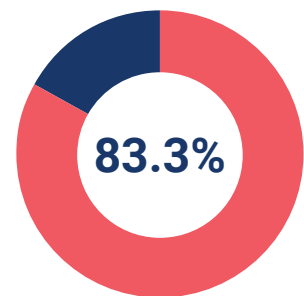
94% of mentees are more confident according to teachers



66.7% are more likely to ask questions in class

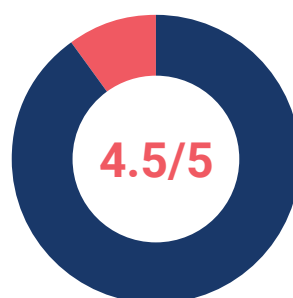


72.2% are more likely to volunteer answers in class

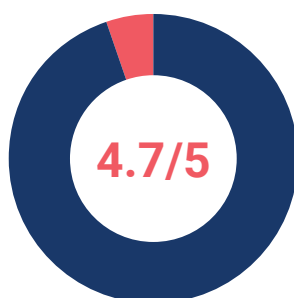


83.3% of mentees have displayed a positive change in their behaviour in the classroom*

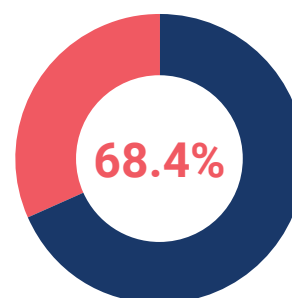
THE MENTEES



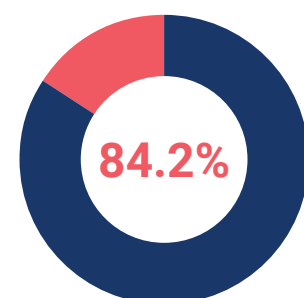
The average score students gave for how much they enjoy learning with Light Up Learning was **4.5/5**



The average score students gave for their relationship with their mentor was **4.7/5**



68.4% of students felt they were more likely to attend school on days with a scheduled mentoring session



84.2% of students said that Light Up Learning helped break down barriers to learning

*with many teachers highlighting an increase in focus and engagement

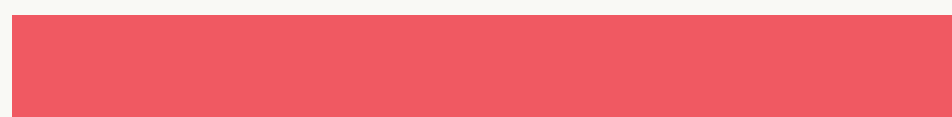
CORE SKILLS

While all our students might be studying different topics, there are many common transferable skills that our mentees develop through learning about the things that interest them. This year we asked mentees to think about the 'core skills' that LUL has helped them develop. We narrowed this down to 8 key skills: communication, research skills, confidence, debating, practical skills, artistic skills, teamwork and leadership.

Using the list of 'core skills', we are building opportunities for students to reflect on their own learning and the progress they have made. Not only does this help students build confidence in their own abilities, but also helps them set challenges at the start of each term and think about the skills they would like to build on in their sessions.

At the end of the 21/22 school year we asked all of our students to identify the core skills they felt they had developed when working with their mentor and these were the results:

% of mentees reporting an increase in the following skills due to working with LUL:



Communication skills: 84.2%



Confidence: 60.5%



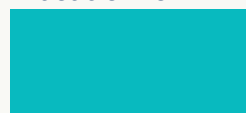
Research: 68.4%



Teamwork: 60.5%



Artistic skills: 42.1%



Debating: 21.1%



Leadership: 28.9%



Practical Skills: 57.9%

CAITLIN'S STORY

Caitlin was originally referred to Light up Learning to help her to develop more confidence in her abilities and think about her future. Caitlin has enjoyed exploring topics which fall outside of the school curriculum, and recently completed a very advanced essay on Attachment Theory: *"I learned about psychology and then linked it to the tv show, Friends, because I'd watched it a lot. So I did an analysis of the characters to see what they're like based on the information I know about attachment theory"*. Exploring this topic has helped her shape her future plans and she has decided that *"I'm interested in doing child psychology. I want to study psychology after school"*.

After being with LUL for two years Caitlin has been able to take on more responsibilities and leadership roles as a Youth Ambassador, including assisting with finding new mentors for the organisation by conducting interviews with potential candidates. When asked about this she said: *"Probably two years ago I would*

have been like 'no I'm not doing it'", but being with LUL has changed her attitude and now she feels more confident about trying new things. Her mentor, Katie, has also noticed Caitlin's confidence, and told her that: "The growth in your confidence is unbelievable. You do try new things, you are really up for trying anything. Whether it's reading, researching something, even getting stuck into an essay".

When asked about what she felt Light Up Learning had helped her with the most, Caitlin had this to say: *"When you're learning in LUL, you're figuring out what you want to do, learning with help from somebody else, doing stuff you wouldn't normally do. Before if I was stuck on anything I would just ask the teacher or stay stuck. Now I can try to figure out things by using research"*. LUL has also helped Caitlin change her mind about learning more generally: *"Before Light Up Learning it was just something I had to do, it was kind of boring. I wasn't really interested in it. It was quite forced. Whereas now, it can be fun and different."*

"Learning isn't just something you have to do in school and is forced into your brain to make you better at doing stuff. It's something that happens throughout one's life and I really enjoyed learning in a different way".

Student

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

At Light Up Learning, it is important that young people are at the forefront in everything we do. In addition to their weekly mentoring sessions, this year 17 students took on extra responsibilities within the organisation as part of the launch of our Youth Ambassador programme. This replaces our Youth Forum in order to allow us to involve students across the wider geographical area we are now working in. We offer students opportunities to get involved in a leadership role in lots of different ways, from acting as youth consultants for organisational decisions, interviewing candidates who have applied to become mentors, assisting with staff training, and introducing younger students to the programme.

Next year we have exciting plans to expand this programme and offer additional ways for students to develop their leadership skills within the organisation. As one of our Ambassadors says: *"It is so unique to let a student come to the behind-the-scenes meetings. It's really great and shows that LUL is genuinely about the mentees. They aren't trying to hide anything. It is student-led."*

"It is a well organised programme which offers a chance for pupils who may otherwise be under the radar for support".

Deputy Head, Wester Hailes High School



PROJECT GALLERY



Above: A trip to a special effects studio helped inspire some of our young people who are interested in working in a film set and props design.

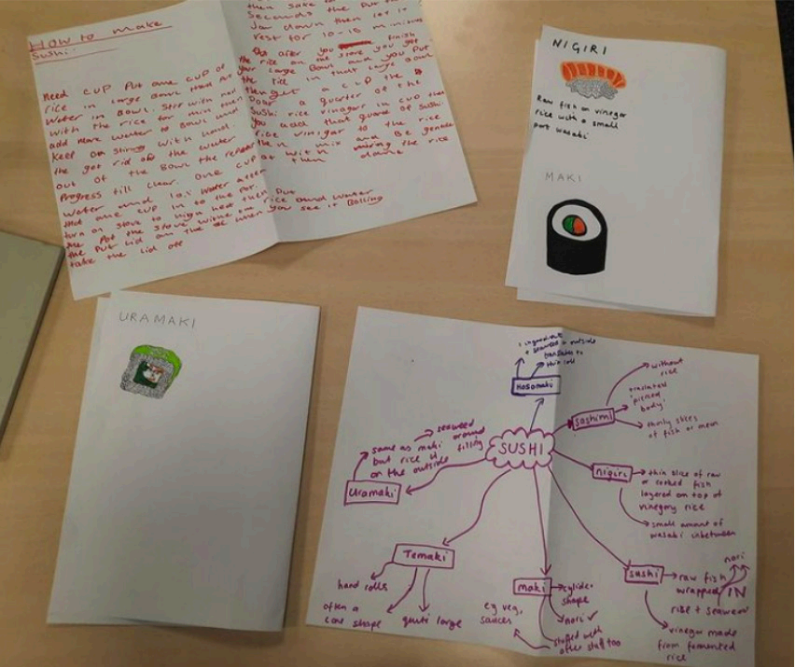


Left: Costume design has been a popular topic for mentees this year. This is a sketch by one mentee using an online course to learn how to draw different types of costume materials.

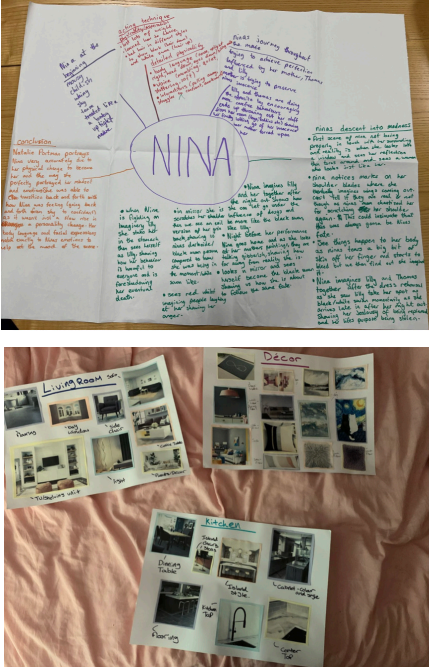
"I can do a lot more work if it's fun rather than silent classrooms. When I'm learning about something I'm interested in I'm much more able to focus".

Student

One mentee chose sushi as his topic in the winter term, learning all about the history of sushi, looking at different methods and recipes, and culminating in some practical sessions in the kitchen.



An analysis of Nina in The Black Swan as part of a mentee's project on film studies



Right: A mentee researched hair design for film. Using the Bridgerton series to help her shape a brief, here are some of the designs she came up with!

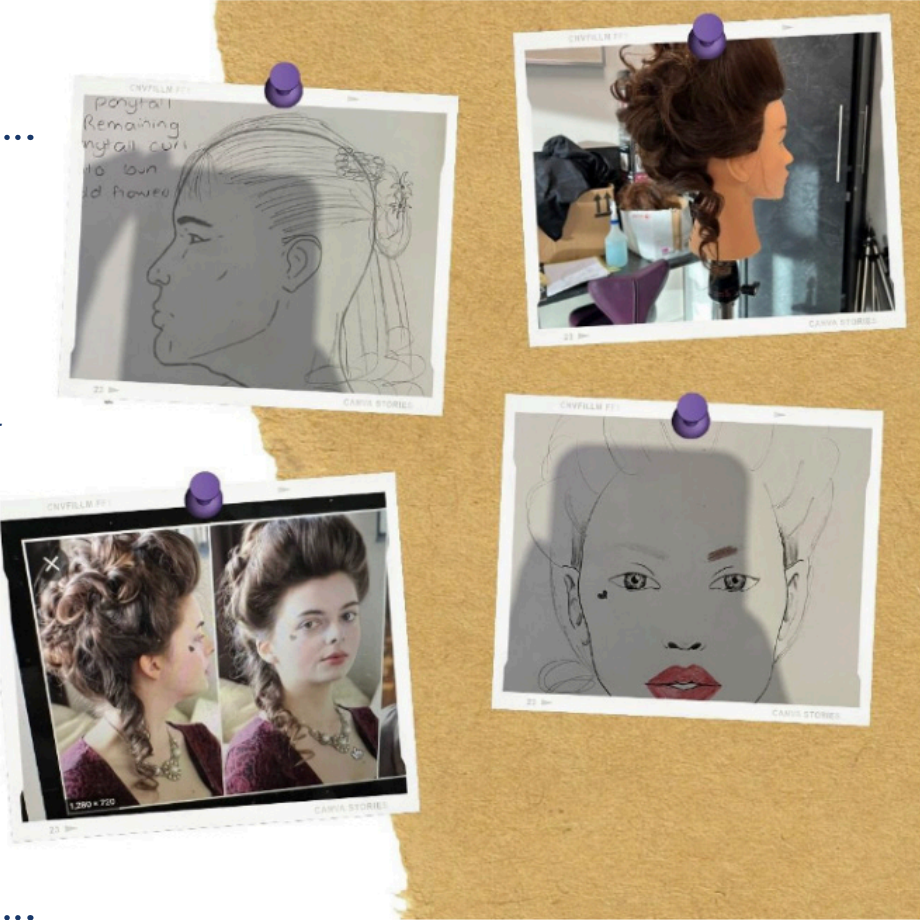
Mood boards by a budding interior designer at Armadale Academy.

“All of the students involved with the programme speak very positively about their experience and we always have a high level of engagement from students involved which is proof that they are most definitely benefitting from the support that LUL provides”.

Deputy Head, Armadale Academy

“Light Up Learning has made me more enthusiastic about coming to school”.

Student



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"One third-year student was referred to Light Up Learning due to poor attendance, anxieties, and a general lack of motivation. I have noticed that since starting mentoring sessions the student has a more positive attitude to school and seems happier generally. They also are making more effort to get to school on time and I think feel like they belong more to the school community. They seem more motivated to learn and are starting to see a purpose to school and developing new skills and knowledge".

Guidance teacher

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"I can use skills I learned while learning for fun and apply them to my school work. I am better at debating now".

Student

"It is a well organised programme which offers a chance for pupils who may otherwise be under the radar for support".

Deputy Head, Wester Hailes High School

"I thought learning was really boring. Now I think it can be less boring and more fun and there are more ways to learn".

Student

.....

"The main difference for me is that before I didn't enjoy school. I was bored with it, I just wanted to leave. But now I'm moving to S6. Light Up Learning gives you a break from traditional learning and you can learn what you want to learn. In school you can only do limited research and you don't have so many choices. Light Up Learning mentoring takes the pressure off, there are no tests. You can go really in depth into what you want to learn about".

Student



Thank you

We couldn't do our work without the generosity of our funders – thanks to all of you! This year our funders included:

Edinburgh City Council | KPE4 Charitable Trust | CMS | The Walter Scott Giving Group | James and Will Ferguson | The ABC Foundation | The Miss D M Dawson Trust | The W. M. Mann Foundation | Souter Charitable Trust | The David Family Foundation | The Mbili Charitable Trust | The Robert Haldane Smith Charitable Foundation | The Pat Newman Memorial Trust | The Murdoch Forrest Charitable Trust | The Ward Family Charitable Trust | The Pump House Trust | The Stafford Trust | Cash for Kids | Appletree Trust | The Pleasance Trust | The Inchrye Trust | John Watson's Trust | The Irving Memorial Trust | The N Smith Charitable Trust | Conundrum Charitable Trust | The Westwood Charitable Trust | The Gledswood Charitable Trust | The Lady Marian Gibson Trust | The Worshipful Company of Grocers | The Cordis Charitable Trust | The Leigh Trust | The Paristamen Charity | All other private donors who donate on a regular basis

If you'd like to support our work, please get in touch with us at info@lightuplearning.org.uk

We also want to thank all our students, mentors, teachers, and other school staff who support our students, as well as our board of trustees.

We also want to give a special thank you to Elliott Greene, who put this impact report together, and The Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities who provided the funding to allow Elliott to undertake an internship with us as part of their PhD internship scheme.

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If you'd like to know more about Light Up Learning, you can join the conversation on **Twitter**, check out our students' work on **Instagram** or have a look at our **website**

🐦 @LearnAndLightUp
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You can see a full set of our latest accounts, on our **OSCR page**

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Light Up Learning is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), charity no.SC045701

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