

For immediate release: 1 September 2014

Levelling the playing field: Impetus-PEF adds four tutoring charities to its portfolio with investments totalling £400,000

The Access Project, Action Tutoring, The Brilliant Club and Team Up each receive £100,000 plus strategic management advice

As we head into autumn, many of us get that new-start feeling regardless of how long ago we left school. For most adults, the feeling soon subsides as business continues as usual. For many young people, however, the new academic year really is a time of great change.

For the lucky ones, September represents progress: entering sixth form or heading off to university for the first time. But for those who have not attained the all-important gateway qualifications, it can mean limited options and a bleak future.

Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation is a charity that brings strategic resources to high-potential charities and social enterprises working to improve the lives and prospects of children and young people living in poverty in the UK. It uses a highly effective venture philanthropy model, consisting of management support from the Impetus-PEF investment team, pro bono business expertise and long-term funding for charities working in the areas of educational attainment and work readiness.

Impetus-PEF has recently added to its portfolio four charities that use one-to-one or small-group tutoring to improve the educational prospects of disadvantaged young people.

Action Tutoring and **Team Up** support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who are at risk of underachieving at school – they focus on providing extra tuition in the run up to GCSEs. The need for their services has never been greater: the attainment gap between young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and their better-off peers is clear. In 2013, only a third (37%) of young people from low income backgrounds gained five A*-C GCSEs (including maths and English), compared with two-thirds (64%) of their better-off peers.

That is almost 50,000 young people leaving school without the qualifications required for the next level of education and many entry-level jobs. Maths and English are a must for selective courses (both academic and vocational) so it is not surprising that young people who do not gain five GCSEs have more than 25% risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) within two years of leaving school. The average NEET costs the public £56,000 by the time they reach retirement age, not to mention the immeasurable cost to the individuals and their communities.

The Brilliant Club and **The Access Project** use tutoring interventions to improve fair access to selective universities, including Russell Group universities. While university participation rates for the most disadvantaged 40% of young people have improved in the last decade, there has been little change in access to selective universities. These institutions largely remain the preserve of young people who have enjoyed secondary education at one of the country's top schools. The benefits of a Russell Group education are well-documented: graduates are more likely to have high-skilled jobs and earn 24% more than non-Russell Group graduates. Lifetime earnings are estimated to be £250,000 higher for Russell Group graduates. The Brilliant Club and The Access Project aim to redress the

balance by tutoring high-performing pupils in low-participation communities to develop the core academic skills, achieve the required grades and acquire the practical know-how needed to secure a place at a highly selective university.

Impetus-PEF Chief Executive Officer Daniela Barone Soares said: “Traditionally the preserve of wealthier families and sometimes dubbed ‘private education by the hour’, tuition can be contentious. There are those who feel it gives already-advantaged children an even greater advantage. That’s why Impetus-PEF and these four fantastic charities are determined to level the playing field by enabling more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to access free, high-quality tuition that can transform their academic progress and their lives. This extra attention – usually unaffordable for young people from low income backgrounds – can make all the difference between attaining the ‘golden five’ GCSEs or not, and between accessing high-quality university education or not.”

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Notes to editors

Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation (Impetus-PEF) transforms the lives of 11-24 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds by ensuring that they get the support they need to succeed in education and employment. It does this by finding the most promising youth charities and social enterprises in the UK and helping them (through a pioneering combination of management support, specialist expertise and funding) to become highly effective at delivering programmes proven to transform the lives of the young people they serve. With the addition of these four charities, Impetus-PEF has now worked with a total of 57 charities. For more information, please visit impetus-pef.org.uk

The Access Project matches high-flying graduates with motivated students from disadvantaged areas for one-to-one tutorials. These weekly academic sessions help students achieve better grades and progress to top universities. Working in partnership with schools and businesses in London since 2008, it has a proven track record of raising attainment and widening university access. Started by a teacher in Highbury Grove School in Islington, it now works with 14 schools in London and has recently launched the programme in the West Midlands. A dedicated Programme Coordinator works in each of these schools, enabling The Access Project to be fully embedded in school life. These Programme Coordinators facilitate the tutoring programme as well as deliver individualised support and expertise in the university application process to the students and school.

CEO Andrew Berwick said: *“We’re delighted to be joining the Impetus-PEF portfolio. Their due diligence process is really robust, so joining the portfolio is recognition that we’re doing some great work and having an impact on young people’s lives. Having said that, we know the programme is not yet perfect: the funding and strategic support from Impetus-PEF will help us drive even more impact from our academic tuition and university-access support for young people from disadvantaged areas.”* For more information, please visit theaccessproject.org.uk

Action Tutoring supports young people facing socio-economic disadvantage to achieve at GCSE, with a view to enabling them to go on to further education, employment or training. The benefits of tutoring are made more widely available through partnerships with schools with a high percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals and by partnering high-quality volunteer tutors with pupils. The organisation particularly focuses on helping pupils at risk of leaving school without basic qualifications to achieve at least five A*-C GCSEs (including English and maths). Achieving these grades significantly improves their chances of going on to further education, employment or training. Often all that is needed to help them achieve this benchmark is some extra, personalised support in core subjects to improve their subject knowledge, confidence and study skills.

Action Tutoring was founded three years ago and now works with 35 schools in London and has recently launched in Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool and Brighton with plans to expand to Bristol and Leeds next year. Director Susannah Hardyman says: "*The growth of Action Tutoring over the last few years has been exceptionally exciting, suggesting that the organisation is meeting a need identified by schools and capturing the imagination of volunteers to support the work. The model is simple but effective, and can be easily replicated, making it an intervention that can be offered to schools around the country. We are already seeing the many benefits of the support from Impetus-PEF and know this partnership will be very valuable going forward as we refine and shape our work for the future, enabling us to be on a firm footing to benefit large numbers of pupils.*" For more information, please visit actiontutoring.org.uk

The Brilliant Club is a charity that exists to increase the number of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who go on to study at highly selective universities. The simple, scalable and sustainable way it does this is to recruit, train and place PhD tutors to deliver programmes of university-style learning in schools that are based around their research projects. The charity works with pupils from ages 10-18 and provides a structured programme that includes small-group tutorials, university trips and guidance around university applications. The charity was founded in 2012 by two former teachers and last year worked with more than 4,500 pupils in more than 150 schools across the UK.

COO and co-founder Simon Coyle said: "*The Brilliant Club is very pleased to have the chance to work with Impetus-PEF over the next year. From the outset, we found the due diligence process for the partnership thought-provoking and valuable, and we are excited to be moving on to the next stage. We have long felt that Impetus-PEF's thorough approach to driving impact makes them an ideal partner for any educational organisation, and we hope that our work together this year will make a significant difference to the pupils we work with and to our charity more broadly. We are pleased to be joining Impetus-PEF's portfolio along with a group of charities that are committed to raising attainment and improving access to selective universities, and we look forward to working with them too.*" For more information, please visit thebrilliantclub.org

Team Up aims to boost the academic attainment of school pupils from low income backgrounds in order to allow them to make choices about their futures. Bright, inspirational university students deliver small-group tutorials to Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils at risk of falling below their potential to attain C grade or above at GCSE. In 2014/15, Team Up is set to tutor 3,000 pupils, with tutors volunteering from 30 different universities across the UK. Tuition is designed to complement and enhance what the pupils learn in the classroom and Team Up works closely with partner schools in order to tailor tutoring to the needs of each pupil.

Through a chance encounter with a friend who attended private school, Team Up founder and CEO Sharla Duncan, became aware of the stark inequality of opportunity for young people in the UK. Coming from a socially immobile community herself, she recognised the potential of university students to become powerful change-makers by helping these young people to improve their academic attainment, in order to increase their chances of going on to further education, training or employment. "*I am delighted to have Impetus-PEF's support at such an exciting time for Team Up. Over the last three years, our university tutors have worked really hard to make a difference to pupils across the UK, and the wealth of expertise and resources that Impetus-PEF brings will be invaluable in helping us drive our impact as we continue to expand.*" Sharla Duncan, CEO, Team Up. For more information, please visit teamup.org.uk