

Press Release**Date: 19th August, 2015****‘Tuition is an effective use of schools’ pupil premium funding,’ say youth focused charity Impetus-PEF, as concerns remain over the attainment gap on English and Maths for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds**

With both GCSE results and the latest UK NEET (not in employment education or training) figures for 18-24 year olds released this Thursday, the pioneering youth-focused charity Impetus-PEF is calling on schools for a more level playing field in GCSE English and maths tuition as an essential factor in lowering the number of young people who are failing to achieve in education and employment.

Last year’s GCSE results showed the biggest one-year drop in English results overall since GCSEs were introduced 17 years ago in 1988. According to [government figures](#), 61.7% of English papers were graded at least a C – down by almost 2% on the previous year.

For young people in the UK who are living with disadvantage, they faced an even greater challenge in English and maths GCSE attainment. Last year, 36.5% of disadvantaged pupils achieved at least 5 A*- C GCSE (or equivalent) grades including English and maths compared to 64.0% of all other pupils, a gap of 27.4 %.

Amelia Sussman, Investment Director at Impetus-PEF, comments, “The fact is that employers rely on using the minimum English and maths GCSE attainment as a litmus test for potential employment. By failing to provide adequate support for disadvantaged young people in these subjects, we deny them the opportunity of a bright future, and increase their chances of spending time not in employment, education and training.”

Amelia continues, “There are nearly one million young people currently either unemployed, or not in education or training in the UK. If we are serious about ensuring all our young people succeed, we must help them gain, at the very least, a C in English and maths. That’s why we’re proud to be backing a number of high-quality organisations that are improving access to quality English and maths tuition for these students and who are proving that tuition is an effective use of schools’ pupil premium funding. ”

Action Tutoring, an Impetus-PEF charity partner, works with highly disadvantaged and disengaged young people, through a structured tutoring programme to help gain a C grade or above in GCSE English and maths.

Action Tutoring CEO, Susannah Hardyman says, “Without improved access to quality tuition, disadvantaged young people are being stifled and have less opportunities to further their education, develop sector recognised and valued skills and find appropriate and long-term employment. This is especially true at a time when private tutoring for those that can afford it is becoming ever more popular. We are proud of the work we are doing with disadvantaged young people in the provision of quality tuition and hope to see an uplift in their grades on Thursday.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Impetus-PEF (Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation) transforms the lives of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds by ensuring they get the support they need to succeed in education and employment. It does this by partnering with the most promising charities and social enterprises which serve young people, providing them with a combination of long-term core funding and sustained management support. Impetus-PEF currently works with more than 20 charity partners, which in turn reach over 50,000 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For more information, please visit www.impetus-pef.org.uk or call 020 3474 1007.

Action Tutoring offers a structured tutoring programme in GCSE English and Maths to underperforming pupils from low income backgrounds. The programme is delivered by Action Tutoring trained volunteer tutors, who support a targeted group of year 10 and 11 pupils to get a minimum of a C grade in these subjects.

For more information, please visit <http://actiontutoring.org.uk> or call 0207 803 4988.