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Youth charity, Impetus-PEF respond to the publication of data showing no improvement to Oxbridge FSM admissions figures

Tomorrow, the government's Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission will release its [annual report](#) which is expected to highlight the need for Oxbridge Universities to make greater improvements to their admissions of poorer students.

In response to the results, Julia Grant, CEO of youth charity Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation, comments:

“Young people living in disadvantage in the UK have been facing this struggle for too long. Whilst the problem is most pronounced at Oxbridge universities, it is not exclusive to them.

Recent [data from the Department for Education](#) shows that this issue reaches all Russell Group universities and that the gap between the percentage of students eligible for free school meals (a measure of deprivation in the UK) who are going to Russell Group universities and top 3rd universities (Oxbridge) and all other students has increased.

Whilst it is encouraging that Russell Group universities are [committing over £30m to outreach activities](#), those initiatives are often not targeted at students who need the most help. Raising awareness is just the beginning of the journey; students from poorer backgrounds often face more hurdles to overcome than their more advantaged peers – first and foremost not achieving the required grades but also lower motivation as well as a lack of support with the practicalities of applying to top universities.

There are many effective initiatives out there addressing these issues and providing essential academic support that is often the biggest barrier to success for these young people, like The Access Project, The Brilliant Club and IntoUniversity, all of whom Impetus-PEF are proud to be working with. These initiatives are providing the necessary intensive, individualised support that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds need to access top universities. The focus for universities now needs to be on providing greater resource to these exceptional programmes to accelerate their development and improve access outcomes for the young people in the UK that need the most help.”

ENDS

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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.

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