



In 2003, the Department for Children, Schools and Families launched the London Challenge and began to transform the landscape of education in London schools. Through it, we have worked with schools and partners to make London a centre for world class education.

Building on this success, the London Challenge has introduced a new aim - to support London students' progression to higher education. This work will be focused on two pledges, to ensure that by 2011:

- 1 Every maintained secondary school in London will have a partnership with a higher education institution.
- 2 A higher proportion of young Londoners will go on to higher education, including the more competitive universities.

**Raising aspirations** in young people is a key priority for the London Challenge. This leaflet sets out how we will support the capital's schools and higher education institutions in developing useful links and opening up opportunities for young people.

**To find out more, go to:**  
[www.londonhigher.ac.uk/shell](http://www.londonhigher.ac.uk/shell)

## Making school – HE partnerships work

### Schools

- 1 Identify a member of your senior leadership team to have responsibility for engagement with the higher education sector.
- 2 Undertake a simple self-assessment of your current links with higher education.
- 3 Maximise links with HEIs by looking at multi-lateral subject-based outreach, alongside widening participation work.

### HEIs

- 1 Identify a member of staff in your institution to have responsibility for engagement with the schools sector.
- 2 Review your links with schools through the new Widening Participation Strategic Assessments and your strategic plan.
- 3 Work closely with your Student Unions to explore opportunities to promote and expand student ambassador programmes.



### Both Sectors

- 1 Identify representatives from your respective organisations to sit on the governing body of an organisation in the other sector.
- 2 Learn from one another about effective engagement of students and parents.
- 3 Ensure each partner is aware of the other's planning cycles.

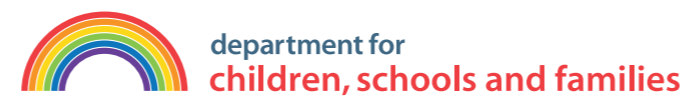
### Effective Practice

- Student ambassadors visiting over time.
- Collaboration between HEIs, especially the specialists, to ease the burden of multiple partnerships.
- Summer schools – with sustained development and summer school.
- High quality, hands-on activities, involving current students, alumni and staff from similar backgrounds.
- Activities tailored to stage. For younger students – campus visits. For older students – subject-specific taster days.

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You can also telephone: 0845 60 22260. Please quote the ref: 01091-2009LEF-EN



## Creating World Class Partnerships Between Schools & Higher Education



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## Why now?

Higher education institutions (HEIs) have long been committed to engaging with schools and colleges. Over many years they have established strong and enduring partnerships, playing a central role in the drive to widen participation in higher education (HE). Yet, sadly, it remains the case that young people from the higher socio-economic groups are much more likely to get a degree.

To help tackle this issue, **Professor Malcolm Gillies** was appointed the Champion for HE Partnerships in London. He has reported to Ministers on what is needed to make a reality of the two higher education pledges and his report forms the basis of this document. He will continue to lead this work, joined by **Professor David Woods**, the Chief Adviser for London schools.

This work will be taken forward through the **School-HE Links in London (SHELL)** project. The London Challenge has commissioned London Higher, which represents London's universities and higher education colleges, to support the delivery of the project.

SHELL has two very important principles. First, there will be full equality between the schools and HE sectors in London and secondly, SHELL will work closely with existing programmes, such as the Aimhigher initiative and support for Gifted & Talented students in schools.

## What's in it for me?

There are clear benefits for schools and HEIs communicating and working together.

### For Schools

- Master classes on the latest research in subject areas.
- Better information, advice and guidance to give to pupils and parents - particularly on student finance and admissions.
- Opportunities for enhancing the curriculum.
- Generating a better understanding of progression.

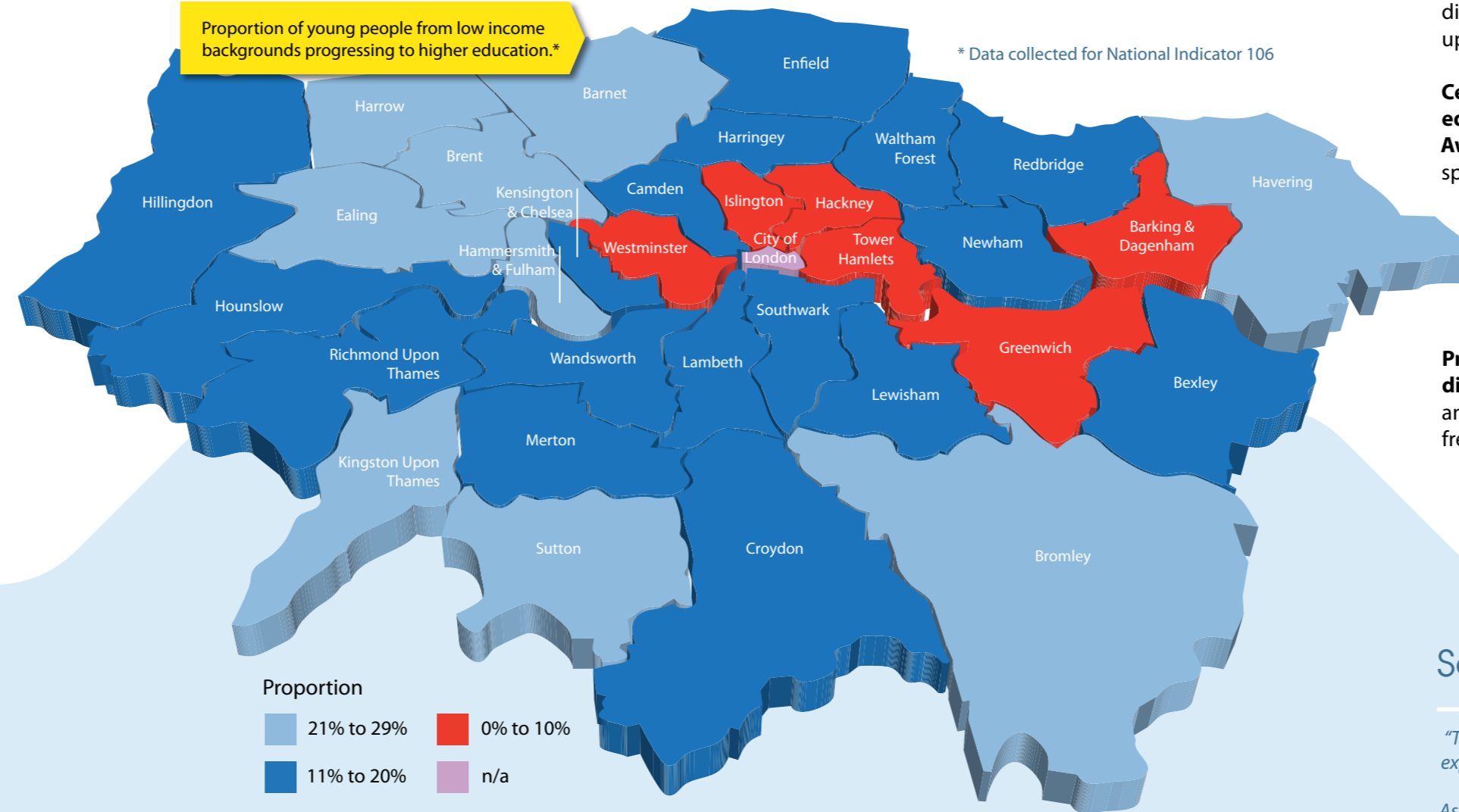
### For HEIs

- Better understanding of recent advances in the areas of personalised learning and pedagogical development.
- Creating long-term and sustainable outreach programmes.
- Enriching undergraduate opportunities by facilitating the mentoring of students.

## The London school and HE picture

The statistics on young people's progression to higher education in London paint an encouraging, if patchy, picture.

36% of maintained school children in London progress to higher education compared to a national average of 28%



Proportion

- 21% to 29%
- 11% to 20%
- 0% to 10%
- n/a

- ✓ There are 40+ HEIs in London educating 400,000 students.
- ✓ Compared to their more affluent peers, disadvantaged young Londoners are less likely to consider that their school is preparing them for progression to university or college (89% of ABC1s compared to 81% of C2DEs).
- ✓ Most London secondary schools and colleges already have some form of partnership with at least one HE institution, but the scope is variable and the quality mixed.

## How we will help

**Provide a one-stop shop for higher education outreach programmes in London.** Our website will hold a directory of departmental contacts in higher education institutions.

**Offer advice and guidance on establishing links.** We are on hand to discuss what type of partnerships will be fruitful for you, how to set these up and where to start the process.

**Celebrate and promote innovation and commitment to school/higher education links through the annual London Education Partnership Awards.** We welcome entries to these prestigious London Challenge sponsored awards: [www.lepawards.org.uk](http://www.lepawards.org.uk)

**Promote the recruitment of people from the higher education sector to join school governing bodies and vice versa.** Embedding the link between sectors through governing bodies is a great way to secure a sustainable partnership.

**Provide additional funding for gifted and talented pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.** The London Challenge offers enhanced annual bursaries for pupils identified as gifted and talented and claiming free school meals, which can be directed at higher education experiences.

## School-HE Links in London project

*"This project takes in the very best of London's talent - harnessing the creativity and expertise to be found in London's schools, colleges and universities."*

*As Ministers with responsibility for schools and for higher education, we are delighted to support the project with its emphasis on effective partnerships to help all our young people aspire to and attain the goals that their potential deserves.*

*It is exciting to hear about the vast range of partnerships that already exist, but these do not yet encompass all schools and higher education institutions in the capital. We invite all of London's secondary schools and its higher education institutions to join together to raise the sights and aspirations of all of the capital's young people."*

**Diana Johnson**  
Minister for London Schools

**David Lammy**  
Minister for Higher Education

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