



[Creative Mentor Network](#) (CMN) is a London-based charity with a mission to make the creative industries more inclusive.

We work with schools in London and Greater London with a high number of students on Free School Meals and high ethnic diversity, connecting young people from diverse backgrounds with those working in the creative industries and tech.

We match professionals with Sixth Form students who may lack access to the networks, insights and financial support they need to break into the industry. And we train our mentors to have the most impact possible.

Our model is designed so that everyone wins: supportive careers guidance for students; training and development for mentors; access to diverse talent for creative businesses.

Course details

- CMN is a 16-week mentoring programme
- Minimum 8 x mentor meetings (time commitment: fortnightly meetings of up to 1 hour = 8 hours)
- Mentor meetings take place at our mentors' place of work (Central London Zone 1 or 2)
- Course intakes:
 - Spring: January - April
 - Summer: June - September
 - Autumn: September - December

Course Structure

1. **School visit:** We visit your school to talk to students in Year 12 and 13 about our programme. We invite a speaker from one of our partner businesses to talk more about careers available in the creative industries and tech.
2. **Online application:** Interested students complete an online [application form](#).

3. **Interview workshop:** Selected students are invited to attend our one of assessment workshops. These take place outside of school hours at our office in Shoreditch. We are looking for drive, curiosity and commitment.

Of those students who attend our interview workshop, we award places to approximately 70%. For those who don't get offered a place, we give feedback and the chance to re-apply in the future.

4. **Launch:** To mark the start of our programme, students meet their mentors and the other participants on the programme.
5. **Mentoring:** Through weekly mentor meetings, mentors support their mentees to:
 - Build their professional networks
 - Grow their understanding of the creative industry careers landscape
 - Develop their confidence, resilience and initiative
6. **Graduation:** Students graduate from the programme, presenting to an audience of creative professionals and recruiters about their journey and what they have learned, followed by an evening of networking.

Costs

We are primarily funded by donations from our partner businesses. This allows us to keep our programme accessible to schools.

CMN membership is £1,000 / year which includes:

For participants on our programme

- Places on our programme for a minimum of 10 students and a maximum of 20
- Support from mentors to develop employability skills, professional networks, an understanding of the creative industry jobs market and the routes in
- Support into jobs and apprenticeships through targeted invites to recruitment open days with our partner businesses and access to our network of CMN Mentor Ambassadors
- CMN certificate of achievement

For all Sixth Form students at your school

- 2 annual school visits to talk about career opportunities in the creative industries and tech
- Access to our [CMN jobs board](#), our monthly [opportunities newsletter](#) and invites to our quarterly careers networking events

Our Mentors

We work with businesses across the creative industries and tech. All our mentors are volunteers, and we conduct DBS Checks and monthly mentor training to make sure they are having a positive impact.

Our Impact

CMN alumni are working in the at organisations including BBC, Warner Music, Maxus Global.
80% of our students access further work opportunities through our programme.
93% of CMN students say they have a better understanding of creative jobs and the routes in

Why we exist

To promote social mobility: Gatsby Foundation Research shows that when young people and their parents know what jobs are out there and where the vacancies are they're more likely to make choices that challenge their assumptions about the right job for "people like me".

Our mentors support young people to learn more about the jobs available in the creative industries, and the routes in.

To build social capital: A study by the Educational Endowment Foundation reveals that young people who make 4+ professional connections before leaving school, are 5x more employable and earn up to 18% more.

Our mentors help young people to make at least 4 new professional connections.

To develop soft skills: NESTA research found that employers value what people can do more than exam results. As the world of work changes, employers seek individuals who can communicate well, adapt and solve problems creatively.

We train our mentors to support young people to develop soft skills they need to compete.

The creative industries and tech

Our mentors come from sectors including: Advertising and marketing, journalism and broadcasting, film and tv, fashion, music, tech and gaming, startups, art, design and architecture, galleries and cultural institutions.

Sector growth

The creative industry is worth £92 billion a year to the UK economy. It's the UK's leading economy, beating even of the financial services industry.

Employment opportunities

It accounts for 1 in 6 jobs in the London.

Future-proof

As more jobs become automated, creative jobs are futureproof. 87% of creative workers are at no risk of automation, compared with 40% in the UK workforce as a whole.



[Click HERE to watch our video](#)