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"an entrepreneur takes risks and uses initiative to be successful"

Closing The Gap Through Entrepreneurial Education

Brendan Loughran
Darwen Aldridge Community Academy
3rd December 2015



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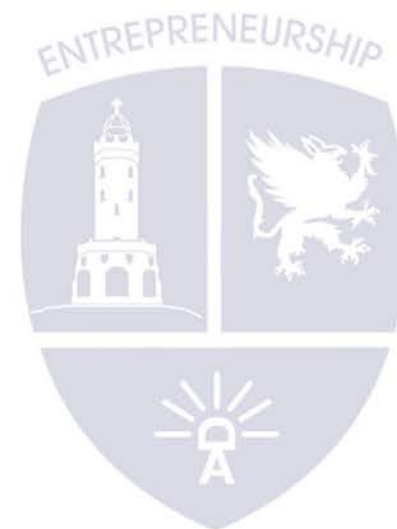
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The Plan

- Context
- The Specialism
- Barriers to achievement
- Curriculum
- Community Programme
- Inclusion Programme
- Business Centre



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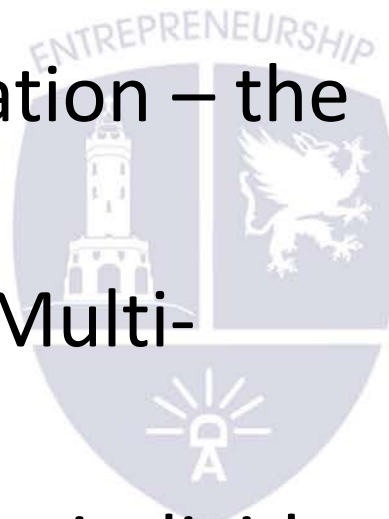
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The Academy

- Opened in 2008, new building in 2010
- Sponsored by the Aldridge Foundation – the first of eleven Aldridge Academies
- Under the authority of a regional Multi-Academy Trust
- Locally delegated responsibilities to individual Academies and their governing bodies



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Aldridge Academies' Shared Goal:

By the age of 25, all Aldridge graduates will have experienced an outstanding and enjoyable education and be able to sustain the life of their choice. They will be independent, thriving economically and making a real, positive contribution to their communities.

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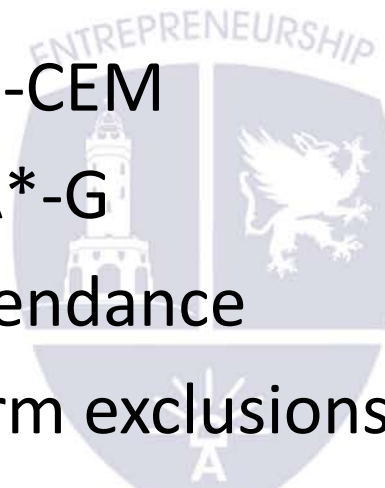
The Journey

2008-09

- 23% 5+A*-CEM
- 96% 1+A*-G
- 91.7% attendance
- 23 fixed term exclusions
- 2 permanent exclusions
- 96 first preferences

2014-15

- 58% 5+A*-CEM
- 100% 1+A*-G
- 94.8% attendance
- 0 fixed term exclusions
- 0 permanent exclusions
- 254 first preferences





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The Specialism

Entrepreneurship

Transform
education
outcomes

Economic
regeneration

Community
engagement

Fully
inclusive

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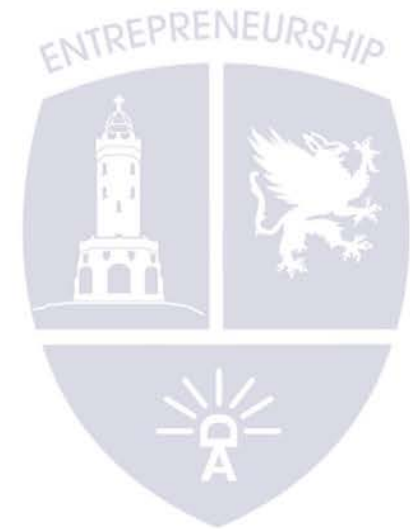
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Barriers

- Lack of personal roadmap
- Parental passivity
- Limited self-confidence
- Lack of people precedent
- Geography – mental and actual



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Our Curriculum

- Entrepreneurship on the curriculum KS3
- Broad and personalised
- Entrepreneurial attributes embedded KS4 and KS5
- Business-like working day
- Business-like uniform



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A Personalised Learning Centre

- Years 9, 10 and 11
- 66% of students benefitting are PP
- Small group or 1:1 tuition.
- Bespoke, achievable academic pathway
- Outstanding teachers and support staff
- Emphasis on positive role models, relationships and building confidence



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Living Room Tour



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Community Champions

- Training
- Support the tour
- Support turning ideas into action
- Support pioneer projects
- Research
- Review
- Feeding back to project staff (learning)
- Regular contact
- Champion the programme and wider volunteering
- Promote the web content/social networking/blogs etc



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Turning Ideas Into Action

Saturday in June

- 108 Members of the community attended
- 38 Community pioneer projects put forward

Training and support

Buffet lunch

Market place - CVS

Speed networking & vote

All projects supported



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Measurable Outcomes

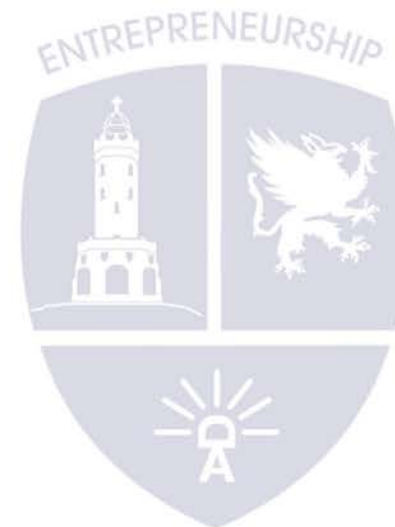
17 - Community Champions

38 - Neighbourhood Pioneers

38 - Community Projects

250 - Volunteers

2,000 + Volunteer Hours to date



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Inclusive

- Community School admissions policy
- Successful SEND approach
- Positive behaviour management policy
- Targeted and well-resourced intervention
- Zero exclusions



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Economic Regeneration

- Unique business incubation centre
- Space - support - advice
- Develop new generation of young entrepreneurs



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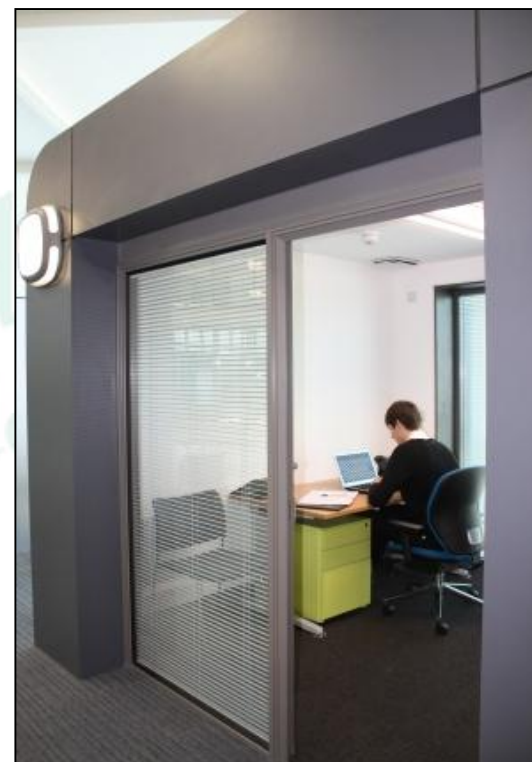
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What Is It Designed To Do?

- Bridge the gap between education and business
- Nurture and establish businesses in the area
- Reduce entrepreneurial barriers
- Focal point for enterprise in the community



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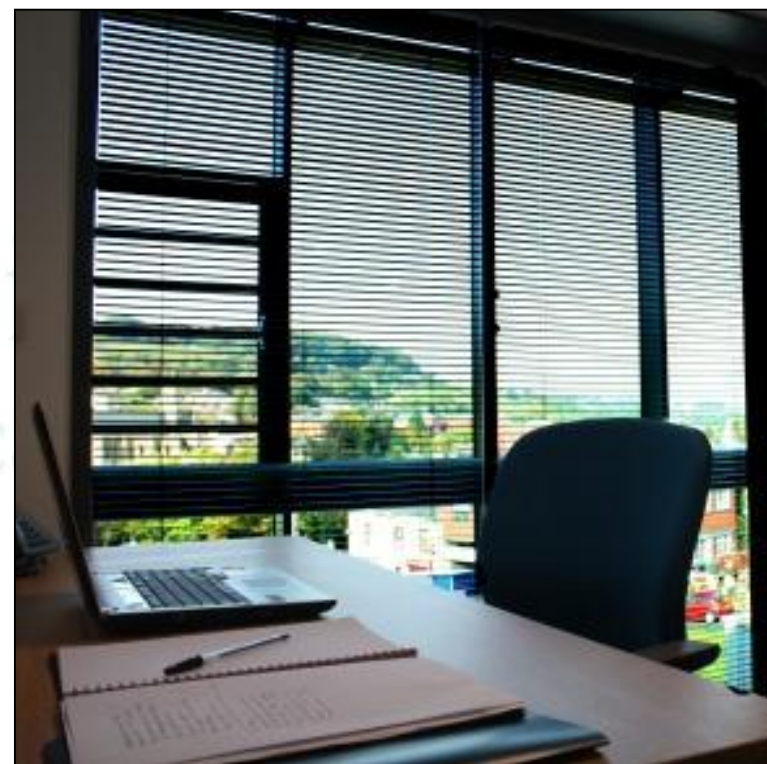
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What Has Been Achieved?

- 4500+ young people in entrepreneurial programmes
- 550+ young people in business start-up programme
- 340+ adults in business start-up programme
- 140+ clients supported
- 19 businesses started



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Top tips

- Ensure PP are known by all
- Ensure PP are resourced
- Ensure PP are included
- Involve parents of PP
- Personalise the curriculum
- Ensure sharp monitoring of PP progress
- Arrange swift interventions when necessary
- Give timely feedback on how to improve progress



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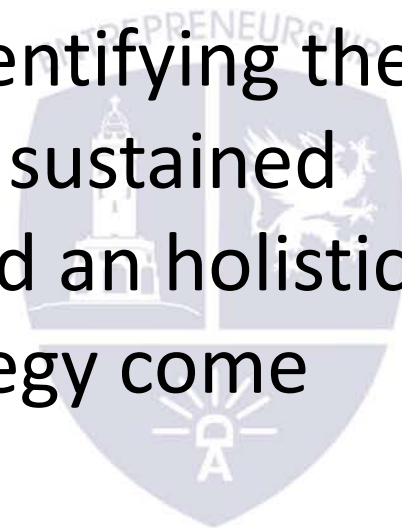
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Finally

There is no magic formula to closing or eradicating the gaps, but start by identifying the barriers. Then with determined and sustained hard work, targeted intervention and an holistic approach, all the pieces of the strategy come together to make a difference.

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