



The Oppidan Academy

7th - 10th August 2023

**OPPIDAN
EDUCATION**



Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP

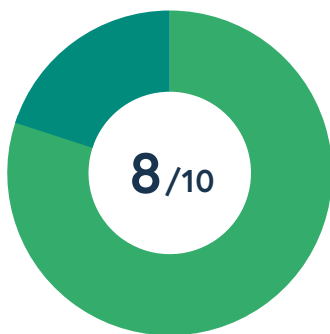
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

The Oppidan Academy

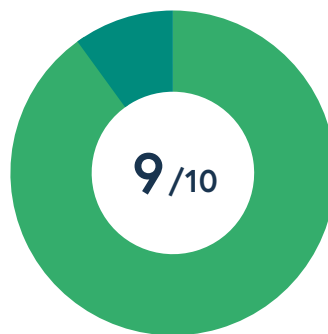
The Oppidan Academy (TOA) is an annual work experience programme for students from schools across the UK. Its primary aim is to provide invaluable insights into potential future careers, the world of business, and the essential skills required for their next steps. TOA integrates enlightening presentations from professionals spanning diverse industries with interactive skills workshops. These components collectively empower students, equipping them with knowledge and skills as they prepare to embark on their journey towards apprenticeships, university, or employment.

As part of this year's programme, the students worked in groups to develop and pitch business ideas. Each business venture was designed to help tackle at least one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Time was spent over the week researching and strategically planning their projects, before concluding with a presentation to the rest of the cohort as well as a panel of judges. The outstanding presentations spanned from bicycle-powered eco-generators to water filtration systems.

The week focussed on the development of essential skills necessary for future career success. The Skills Builder Framework was used to support this progression and encourage the building of important transferable skills. These skills such as communication, creativity and problem-solving, are frequently overlooked in education, yet fundamental across individuals' lives.

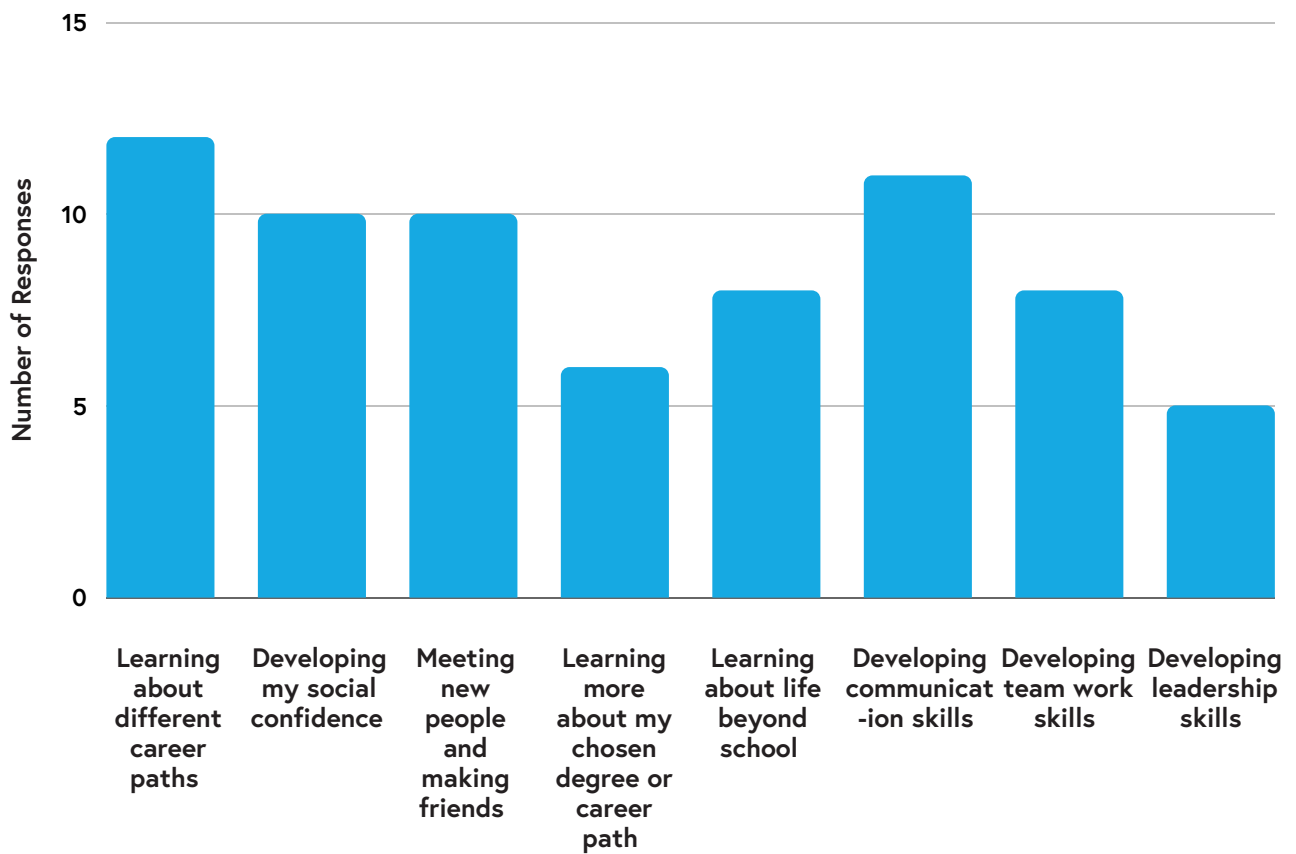


How influential has this experience been in motivating you towards your goals?



How would you rate this programme overall?

What has been most valuable about this experience?



Impact Evaluation

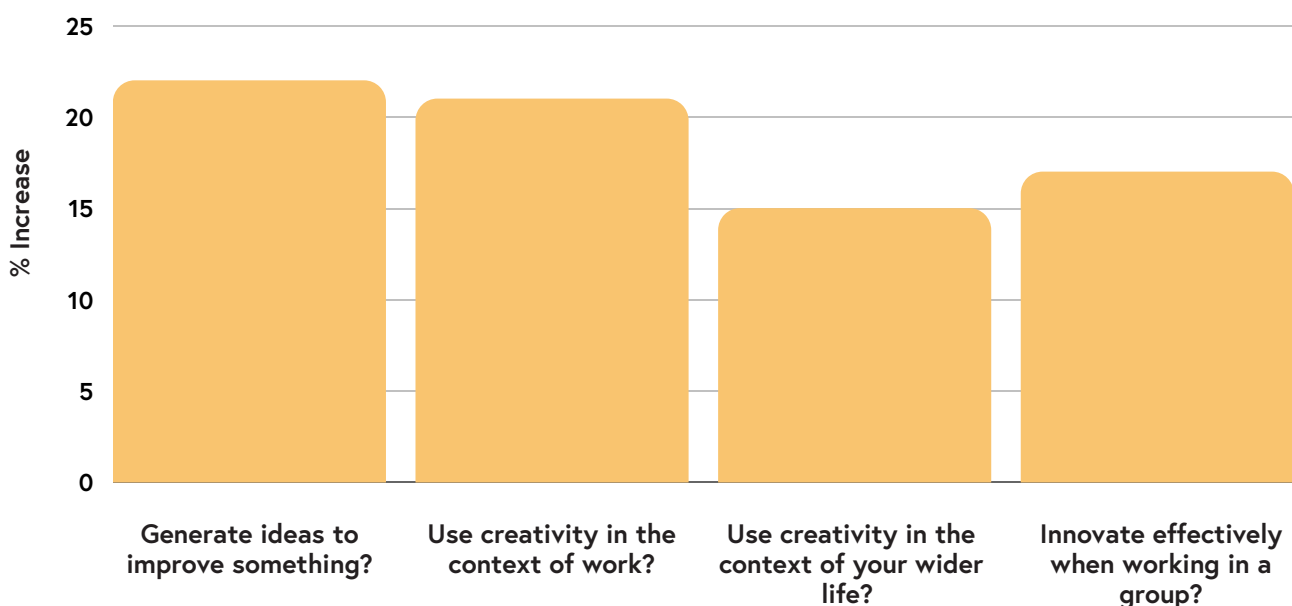
The following impact report looks at how student self-reported confidence in different elements of each skill developed over the course of TOA. Students completed a survey at the start and the end of the week.



Creativity

The programme's emphasis on collaborative group work and ideation for tackling the Sustainable Development Goals prompted students to think critically about real-world problems. By engaging in interdisciplinary sessions, where diverse perspectives were encouraged, students enhanced their ability to generate innovative solutions to address these challenges. Navigating the complexities of group dynamics, understanding diverse viewpoints, and crafting a cohesive presentation necessitates creative problem-solving and innovative thinking.

The structured approach to generating ideas and finding solutions has led to a significant increase in confidence around creative skills.

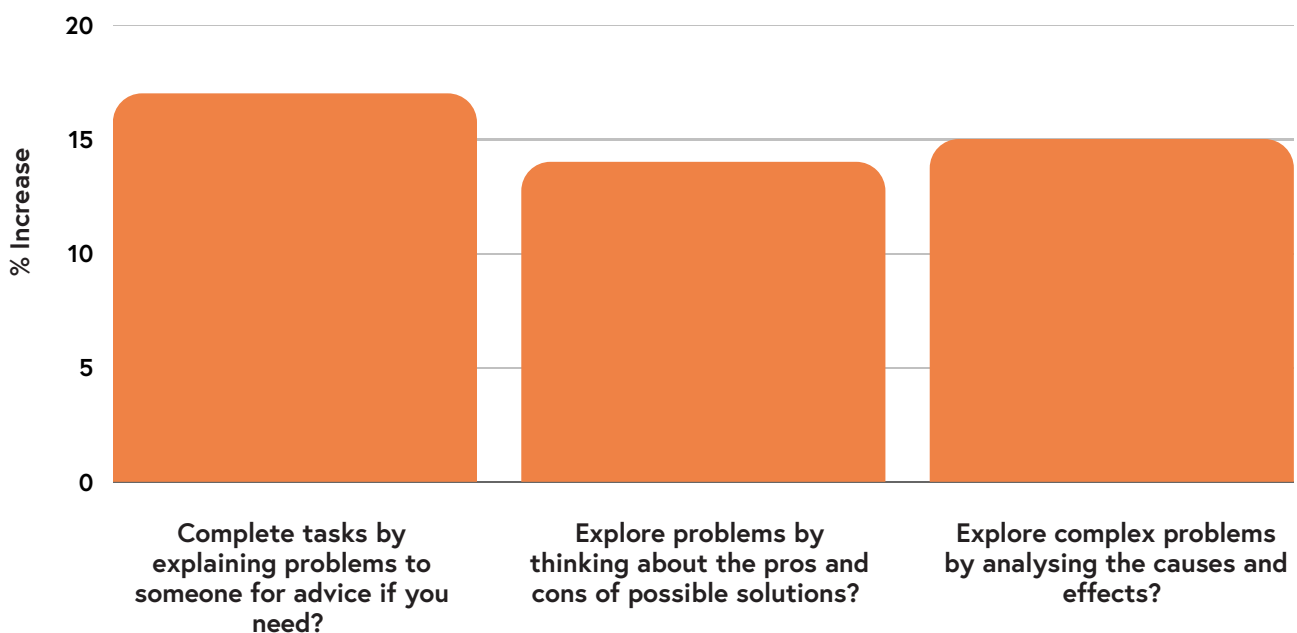




Problem Solving

The week's interactive components, focus on critical thinking, and emphasis on effective communication played a role in enhancing participants' problem-solving abilities. Participants were encouraged to seek advice and feedback from peers or mentors. By explaining their problems to others, participants gained new perspectives, insights, and potential solutions they might not have considered otherwise. This process of seeking advice fosters critical thinking and the ability to approach problems from different angles.

Complex problems require a deeper understanding of their underlying causes and potential consequences. The programme's focus on sustainable development goals and ideation for solutions encouraged participants to delve into the complexities of these issues. Through analysing causes, effects, and potential interconnections, participants have honed their ability to grasp the intricate nature of problems and develop comprehensive solutions.

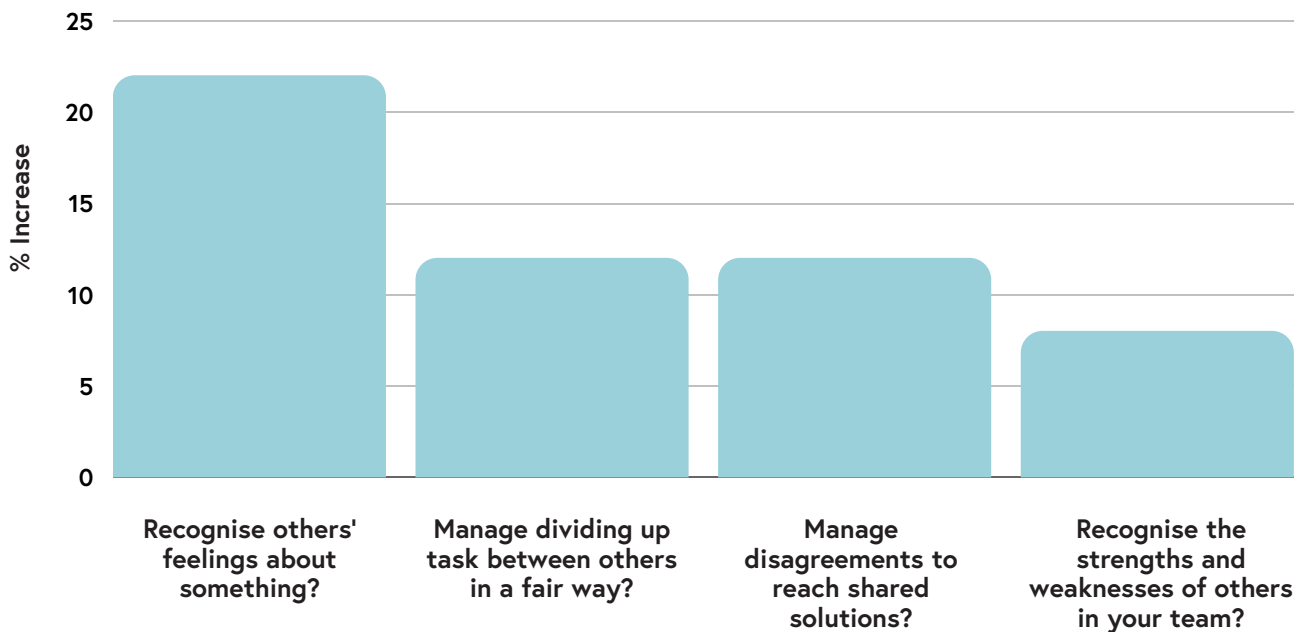




Leadership

Working as part of a group required students to exercise leadership skills. Effective leadership requires a keen understanding of team members' emotions and perspectives. The programme's emphasis on communication and engagement prompted students to develop greater empathy and sensitivity towards the feelings and opinions of others. Students had the opportunity to engage in constructive debates and discussions. Through these interactions, they developed strategies to manage conflicts and facilitate the process of reaching shared solutions.

The focus on understanding others, effective communication, conflict resolution, and leveraging team strengths collectively contributed to enhancing participants' leadership abilities.

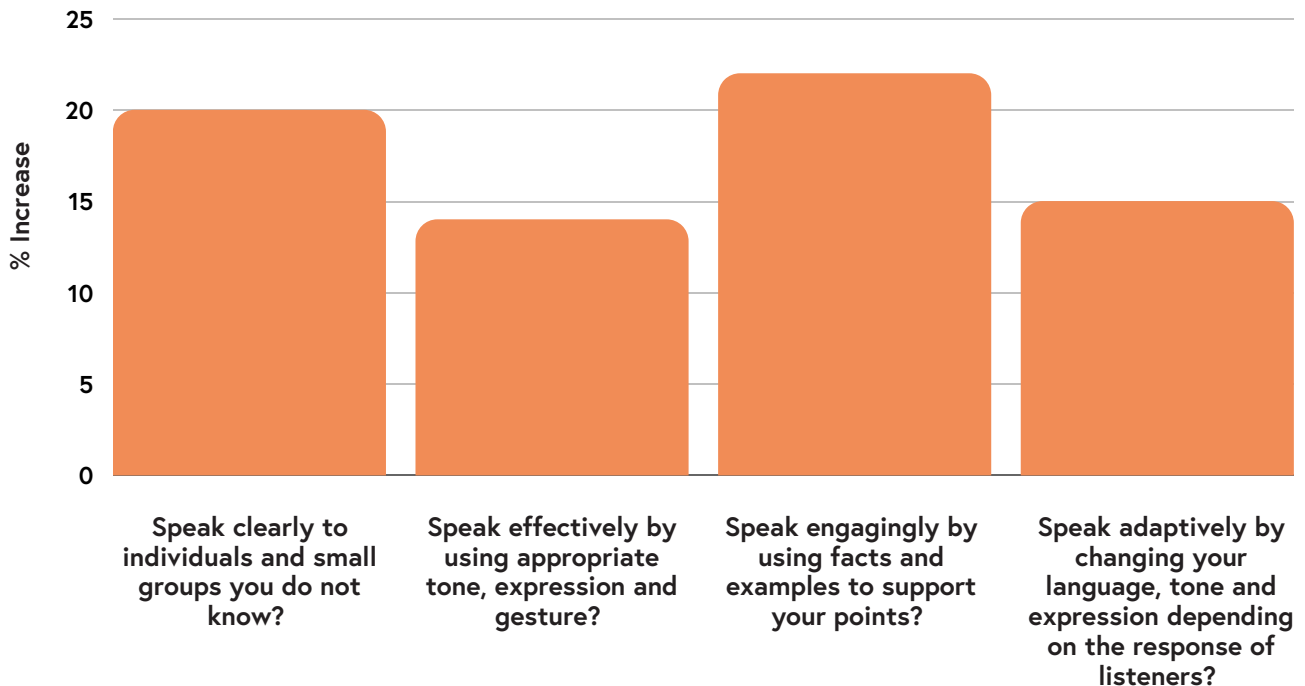




Speaking

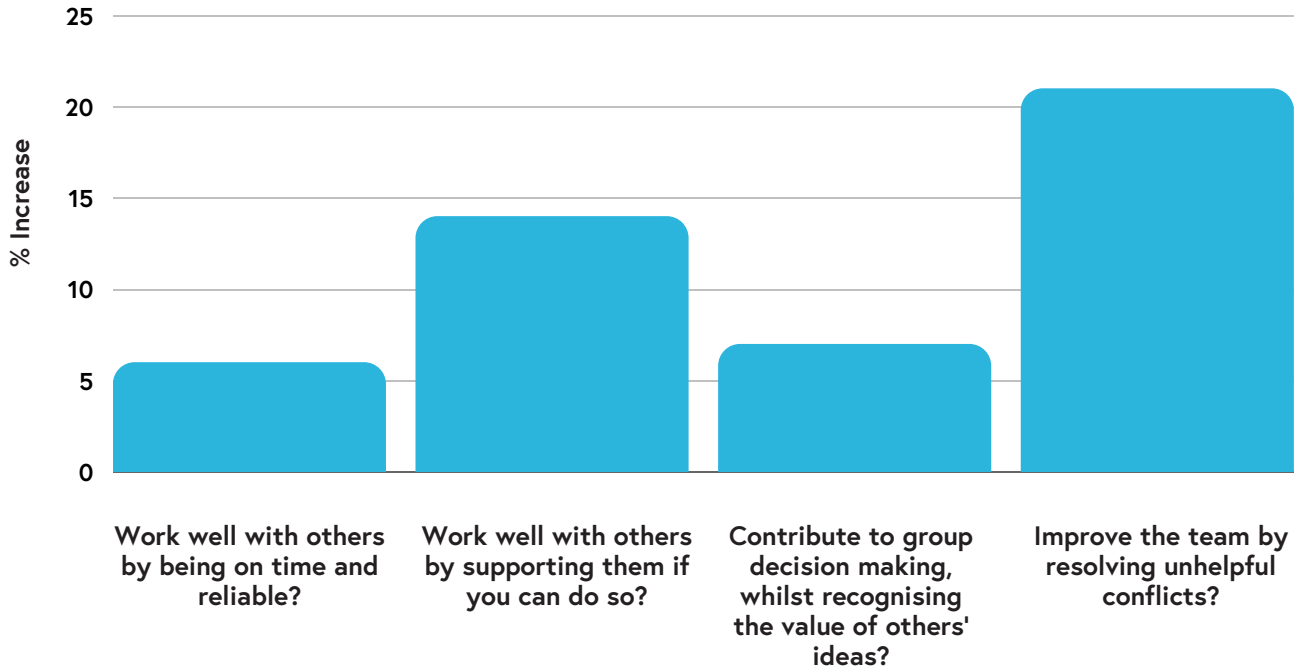
Throughout the week, students were not only exposed to a line-up of accomplished speakers but also actively engaged in workshops focused on refining their presentation skills. One of the program's cornerstones lies in promoting dynamic communication. By fostering adaptability in language, tone, and expression, participants have become skilled at gauging listener reactions and adjusting their approach accordingly.

Through structured activities and hands-on practice, students witnessed a remarkable enhancement in their speaking confidence, increasing by an average of 16% over the programme.

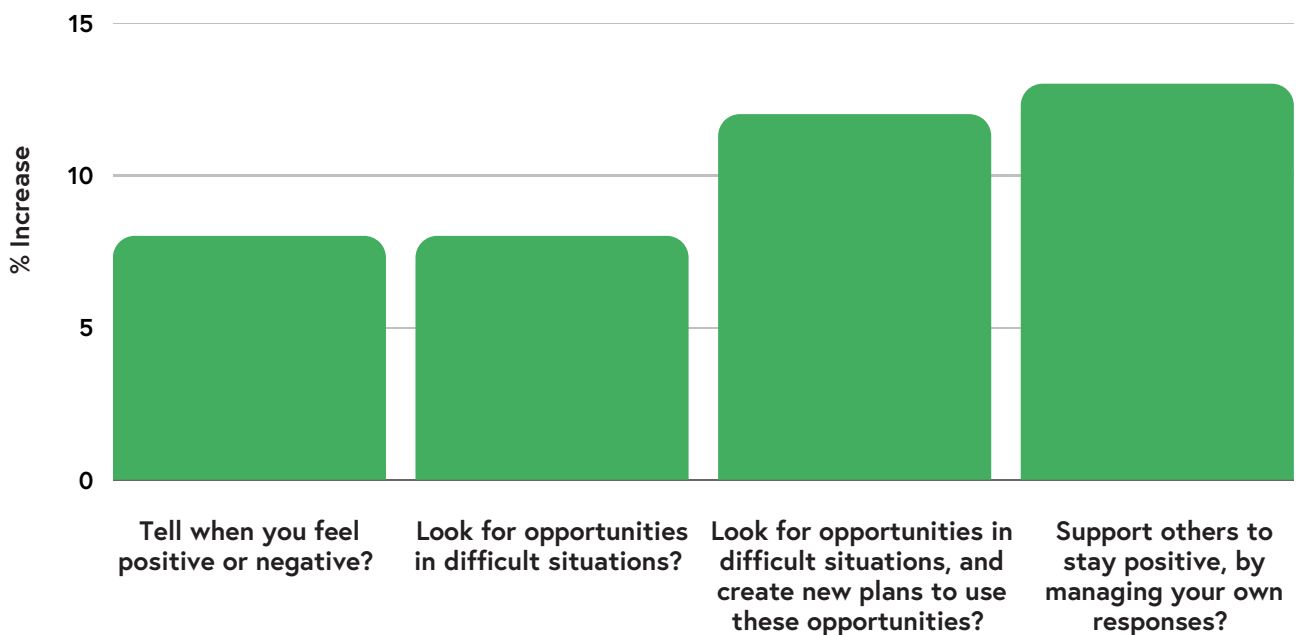




Teamwork

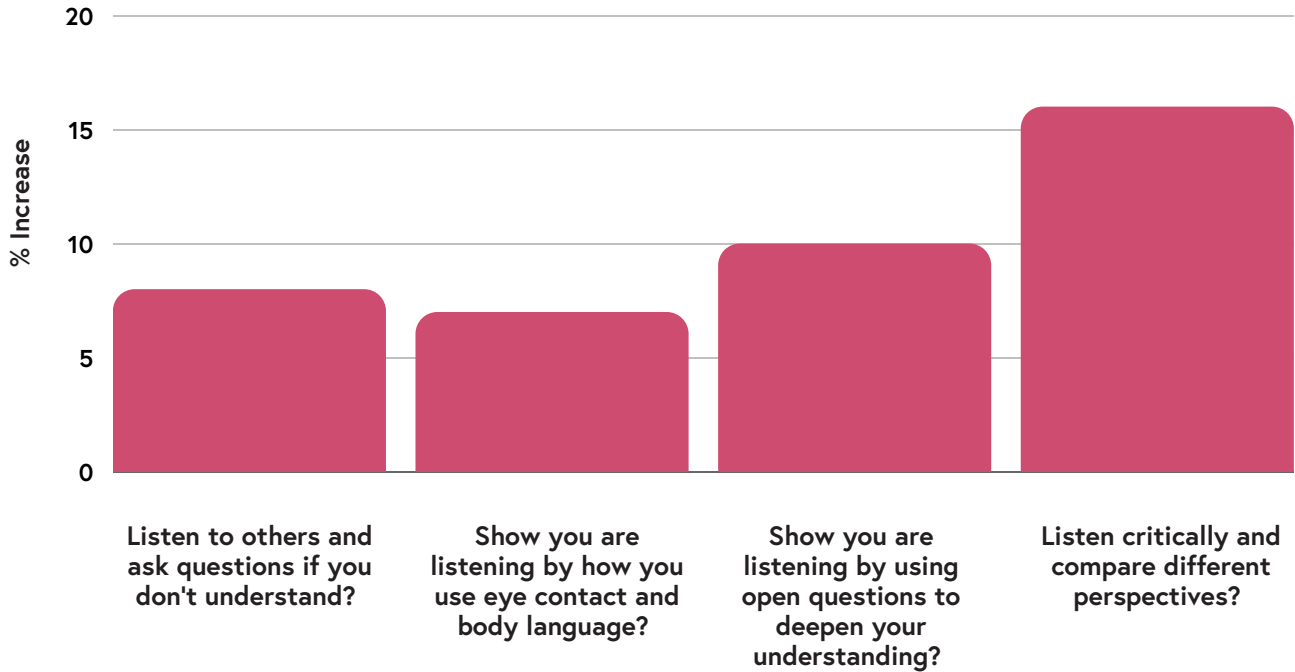


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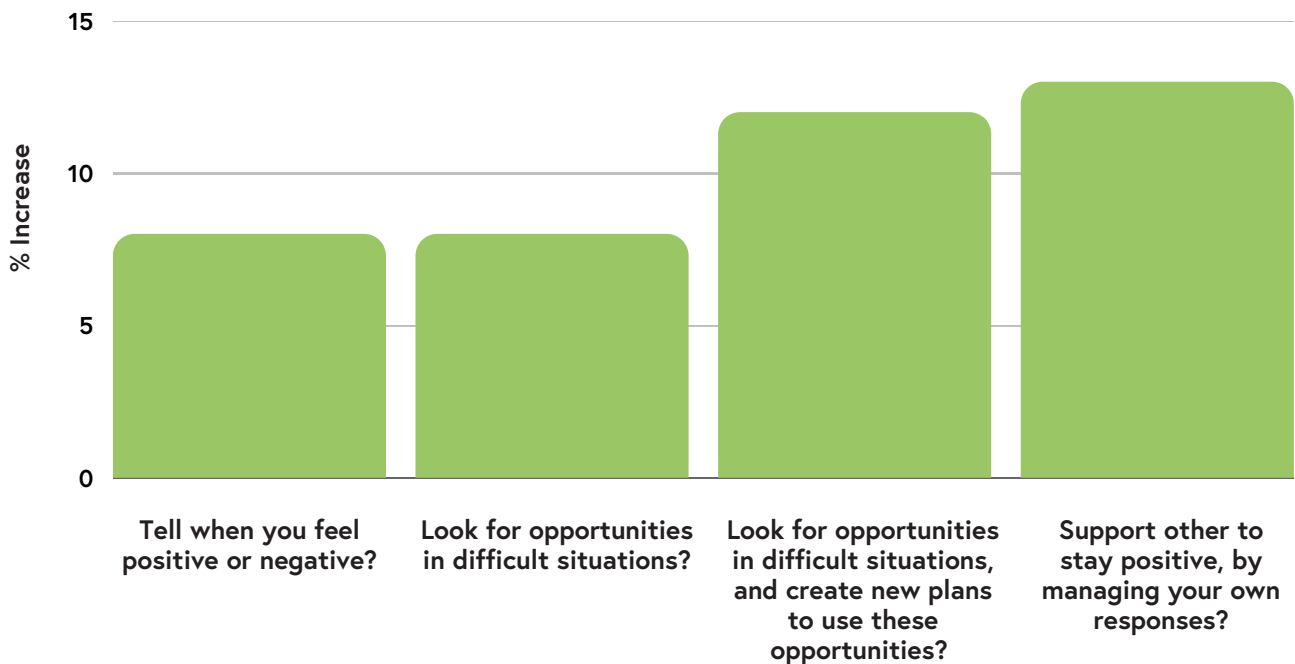




Listening



Staying Positive



Concluding Thoughts

Oppidan was delighted to host The Oppidan Academy for its third year. We would like to congratulate all the students who took part for their dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work. We are extremely grateful and extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the insightful presenters who shared their career wisdom, and to Ruffer, our esteemed sponsor.

The heart of this year's programme resonated in the collaborative efforts of our students as they ventured into the realm of innovation and entrepreneurship. Their dedication to crafting business ideas aimed at addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals is a testament to their visionary thinking and commitment to global betterment. From community language centres to mental health apps, their presentations showcased the depth of their creativity and the boundless potential within each idea.

Central to the week's activities was the cultivation of essential skills that serve as the foundation for future career success. Students successfully honed their communication, problem-solving and teamwork abilities—skills undeniably crucial for navigating the complexities of modern life.

As we bid farewell to this year's programme, we do so with the shared hope that the knowledge gained, the skills developed, and the connections forged will propel these students toward remarkable achievements as they embark on their journey beyond school.

Many thanks,

THE OPPIDAN TEAM

