

School Impact Report

2022 -2023



It has been a real privilege to complement the innovative and deliberate pastoral interventions taking place across our varied partner schools this 2022-23 academic year.

Supporting the personal development of thousands of students this year has given us an illuminating insight into the perspectives, feelings and priorities of key pupil groups across regions, sectors and age phases.

What is clear is that fostering a sense of confidence, through intentional character-focused interventions, can have a powerful role to play in young people's happiness and skills development. Ensuring pupils feel connected and supported with their school community is more vital than ever as school leaders seek to improve attendance, and ensure successful transitions both into and out of school.

Empowering pupils' oracy is top of the agenda in many of our partner schools' development plans and speaking skills are directly linked to developing self-confidence. We are excited that student-reported data this year has shown how a carefully trained peer or adult mentor can foster pupil oracy over time, through an explicit speaking and listening lens.

We are most grateful for the expertise, trust and collaborative community of practice amongst our partner schools and look forward to exploring together the exciting emerging research this new academic year.

Interview Days

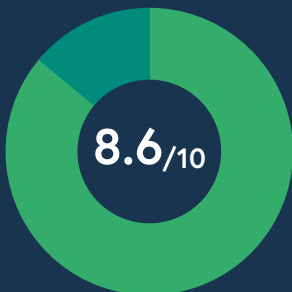
Prep School

The Oppidan Interview Day is a mentoring programme focused on spoken assessment for secondary schools. The ability to engage and talk about yourself with conviction is becoming ever more important as senior schools place increasing emphasis on spoken assessments.

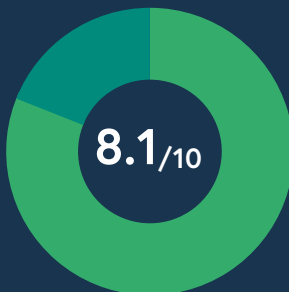
Every pupil has a 30-minute 1:1 interview workshop with an Oppidan mentor. Each workshop looks at mock questions and analysis tasks; children have the opportunity to interview the mentor and a profile is built of each child's strengths and areas to improve.

The data below reflects a sample of 654 students who completed post-workshop surveys last academic year.

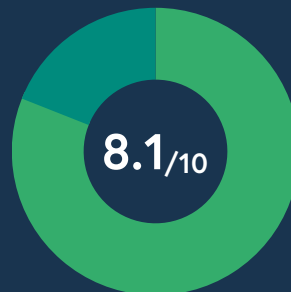
Impact Highlights:



How valuable did you find this mentoring workshop?

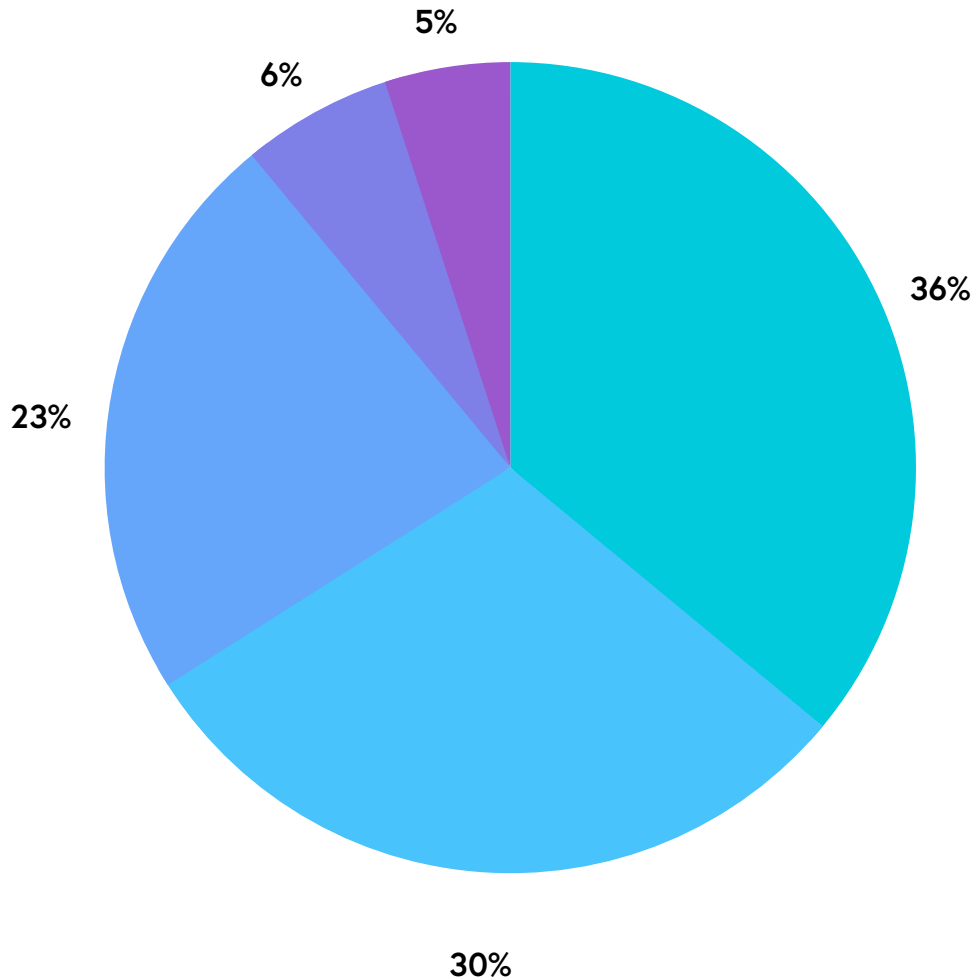







How confident do you feel about your future interview?



How influential has this mentoring workshop been in increasing your confidence for your future interview?

What did pupils find most valuable about the Interview Day?



-  It made me more confident to speak to an adult I don't know
-  It improved my knowledge of the interview process
-  It helped me learn how to express myself well
-  It helped me understand my own feelings and values
-  I found the mentors inspiring



“

I think that this workshop has helped me to develop my ability to talk to a stranger and how to express myself clearly. I also thought that it helped me to understand how to act and how to make yourself more confident about the interview.

Prep School Transition Journey

Prep School

The Prep School Journey provides a five-term transition journey for children in Years 5 & 6 ahead of their senior school assessments and interviews. The process is keenly focused on personal development, helping children succeed well into senior school.

Throughout the journey, pupils engage with inspiring mentors through communication workshops, camp activities, a 1-1 mentoring session, and a 1-1 interview dress rehearsal. The structured journey provides parents with specific information and feedback about their child via an online platform of pupil reports.

The data below reflects a sample of students who have completed a mid-point survey halfway through their schools' 2-year journey. Data from preliminary surveys completed by pupils is used to inform the training the mentors receive and which particular skills should be focused on developing.

Pupils reported **low levels** of



Pupil Speaking



Social Confidence



Resilience

Pupils reported **higher levels** of



Listening Skills



Independence

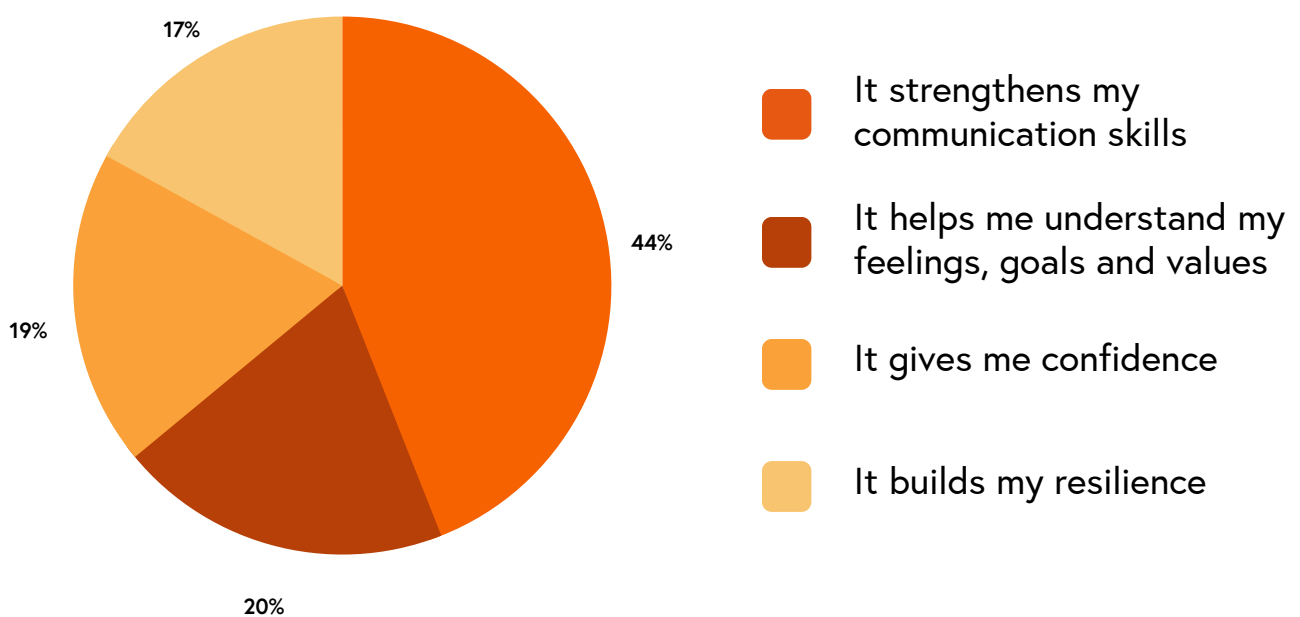


Self Esteem

Mid-Point Impact Findings



Where do you see the most value in this programme?



Career Workshops

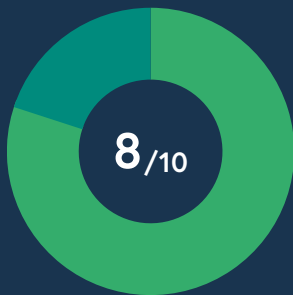
Secondary School

We work with schools to provide a Future Pathways workshop, mentoring sixth formers for the challenges beyond school.

This workshop aims to grow pupils' understanding of the core skills that underpin different careers; to build pupil understanding of their own values, skills' strengths and areas to develop; and to develop pupil oracy as a core career skill.

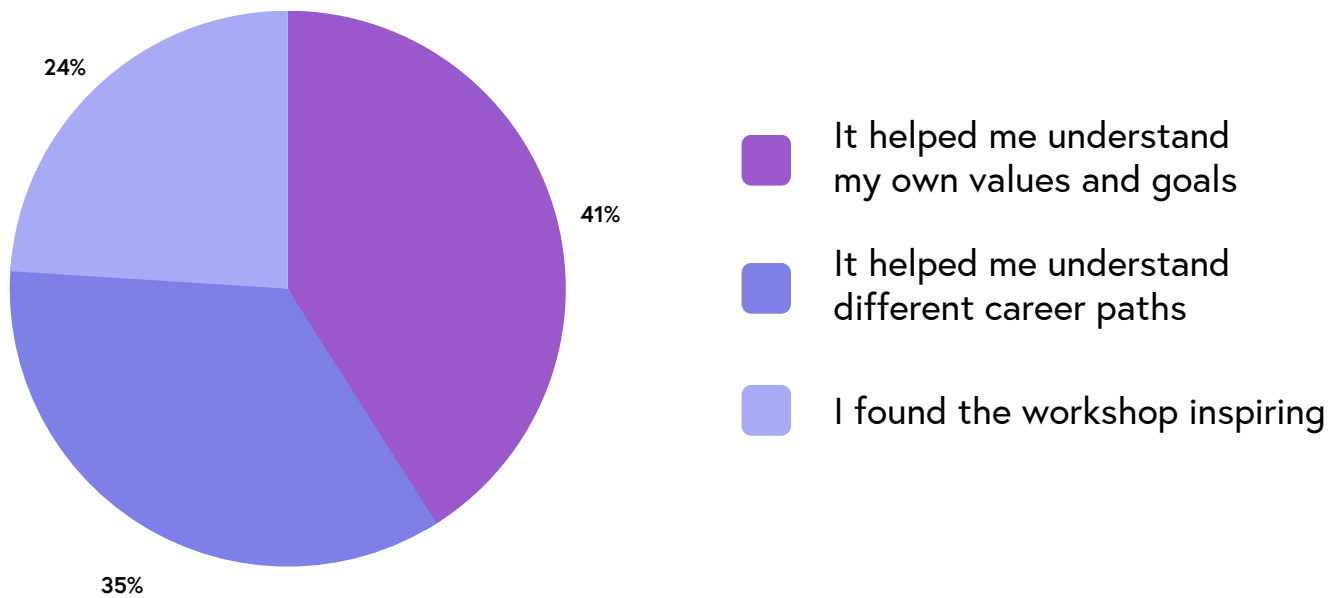
Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their experiences so far and to identify the skills that they have and those that they may need to develop. Pupils learn the importance of communicating their strengths and how to effectively tell their story.

Impact Highlights:



How valuable have you found this workshop?

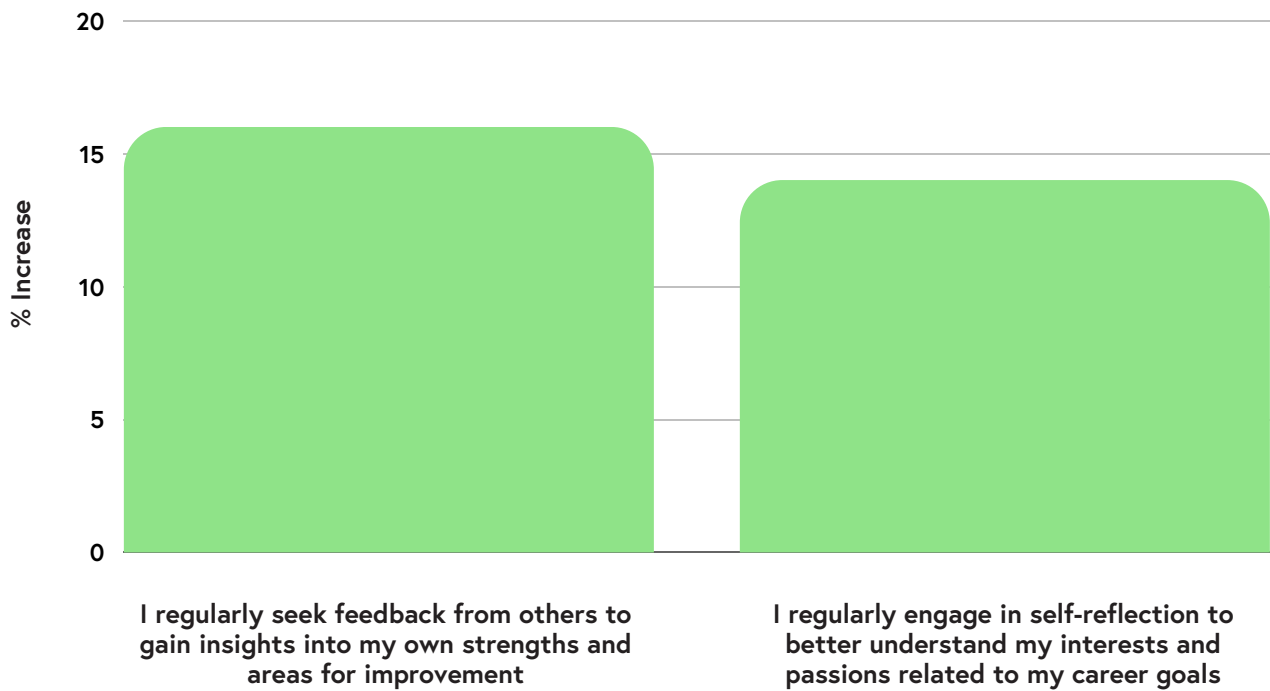
What was the most valuable aspect of the workshop for you?



Goals and Values



Self-Awareness



Readiness and Communication



Peer Mentor Training

Secondary School

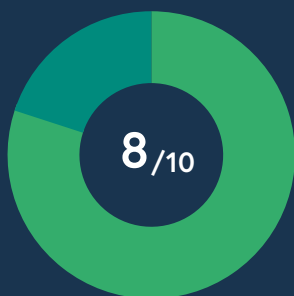
Oppidan mentors provide training workshops to a cohort of older pupils. These older pupils are trained to be mentors, and are then paired with two KS3 mentees, with two-to-one peer mentoring sessions taking place throughout the school year.

The program aims to foster reciprocal and supportive relationships between pupils from different year groups. These relationships aim to bridge the gap and overcome divisions that can exist in spaces where inter-year interaction is limited - building community and fostering positive relationships across year groups.

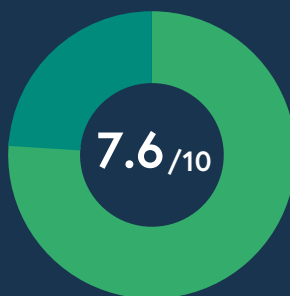
The initiative acknowledges the influential role that young people can have on each other within school environments. It seeks to leverage this influence to bring about positive changes in both the mentors and mentees.

Impact Highlights:

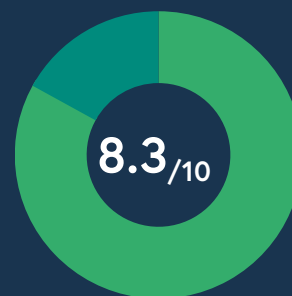
Mentors (Y10/12)



How valuable have you found the programme overall?



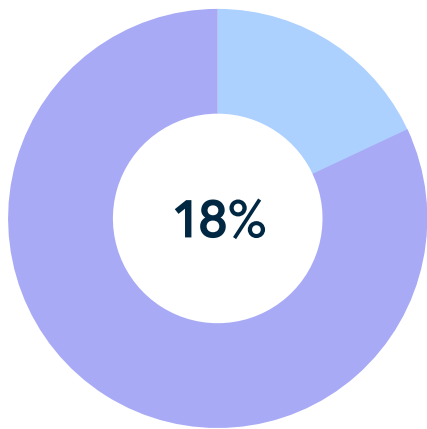
Have you formed a strong relationship with your mentees?



To what extent do you see the benefit of having a mentor?

Community

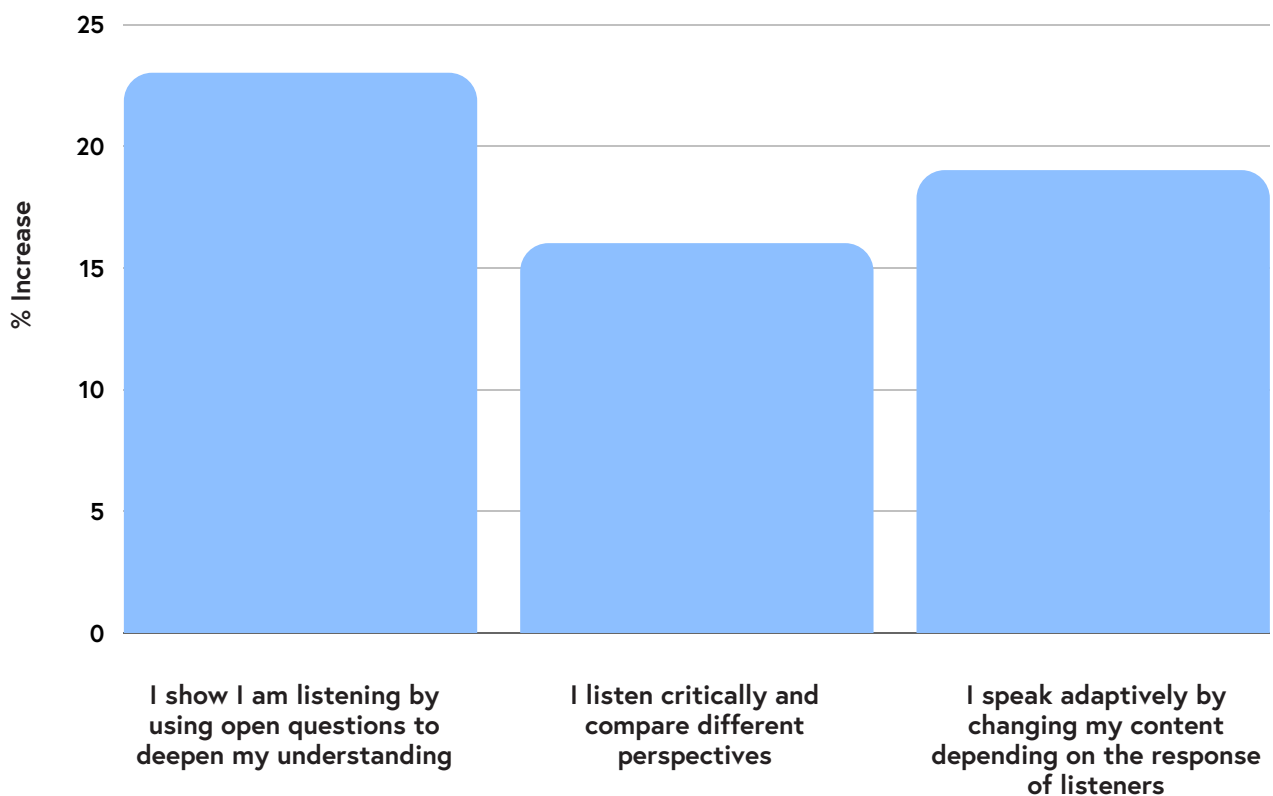
How much do you matter to others at your school?



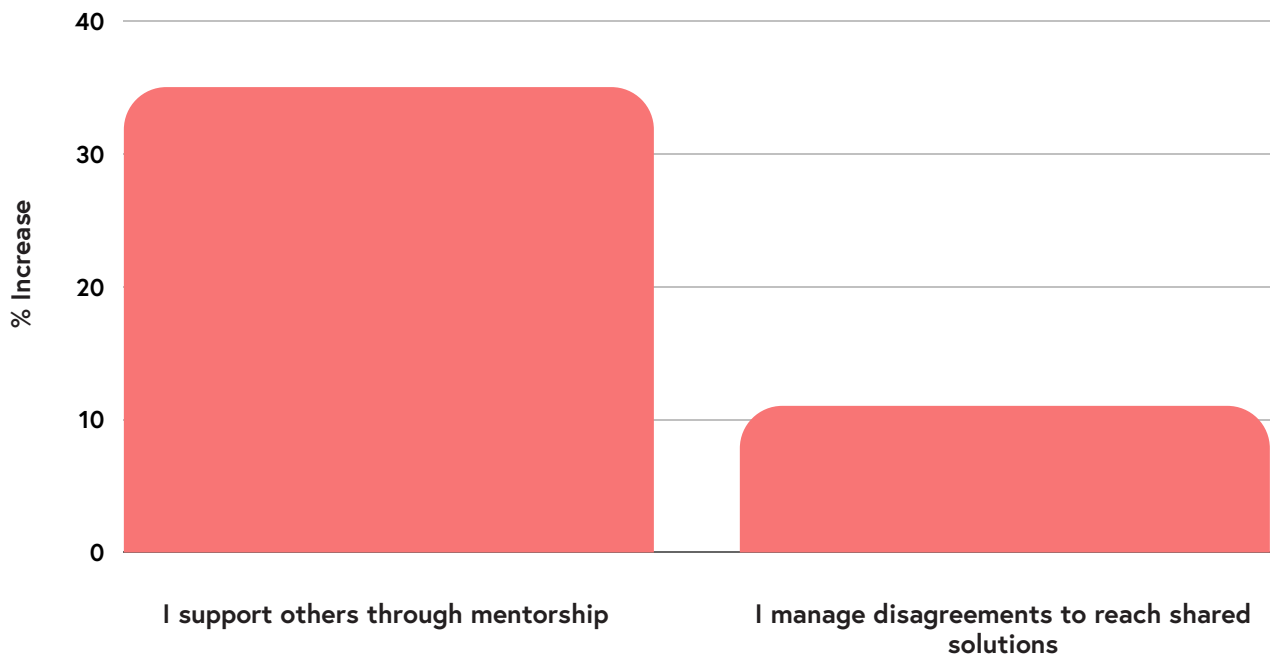
Percentage increase

(1 = do not matter at all /
5 = matter a tremendous amount)

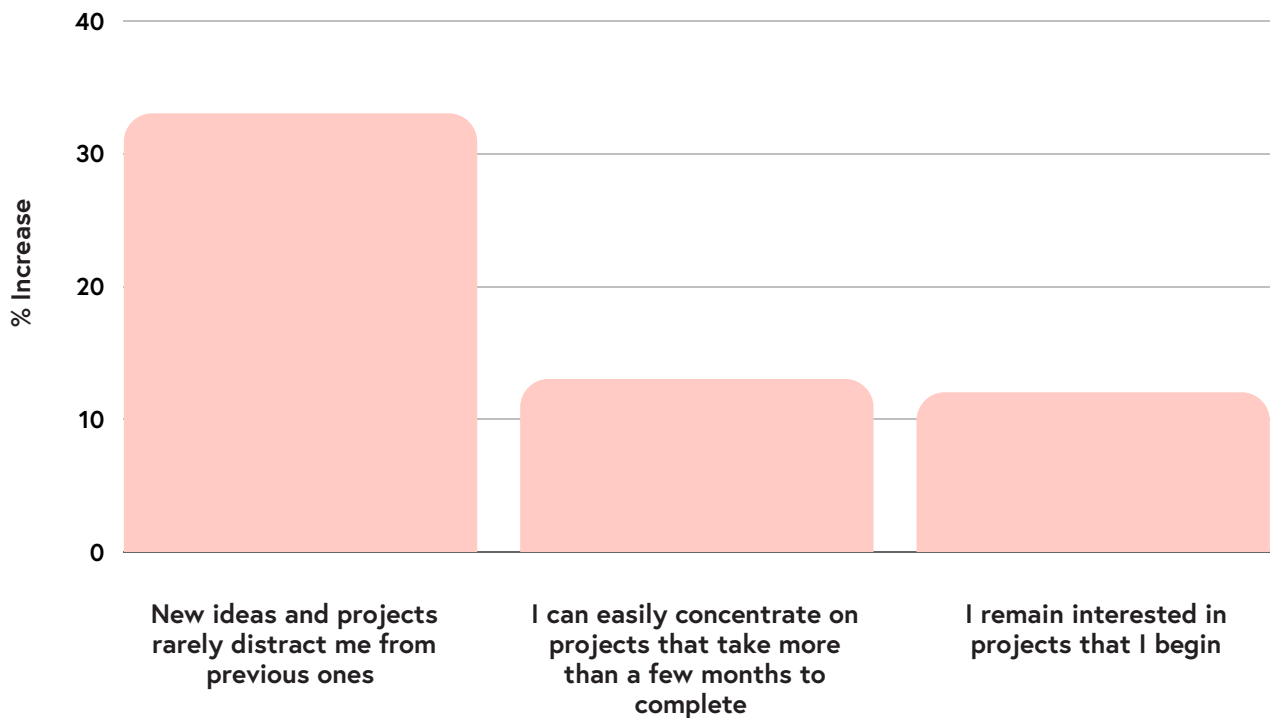
Communication



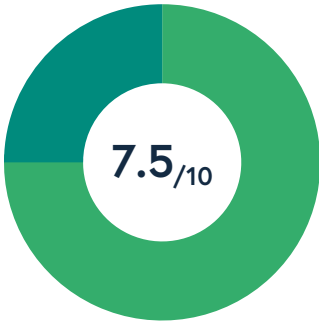
Leadership



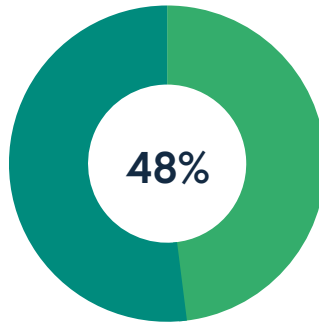
Resilience



Mentees (KS3)

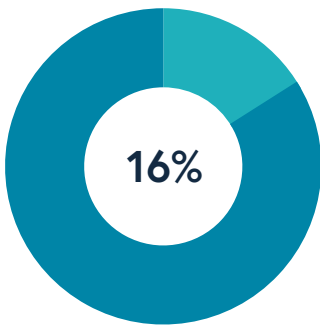


How valuable have you found the programme overall?

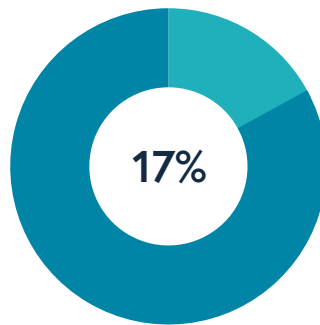


To what extent do you see the benefit of having a mentor?

Community



How much do you matter to others at your school?

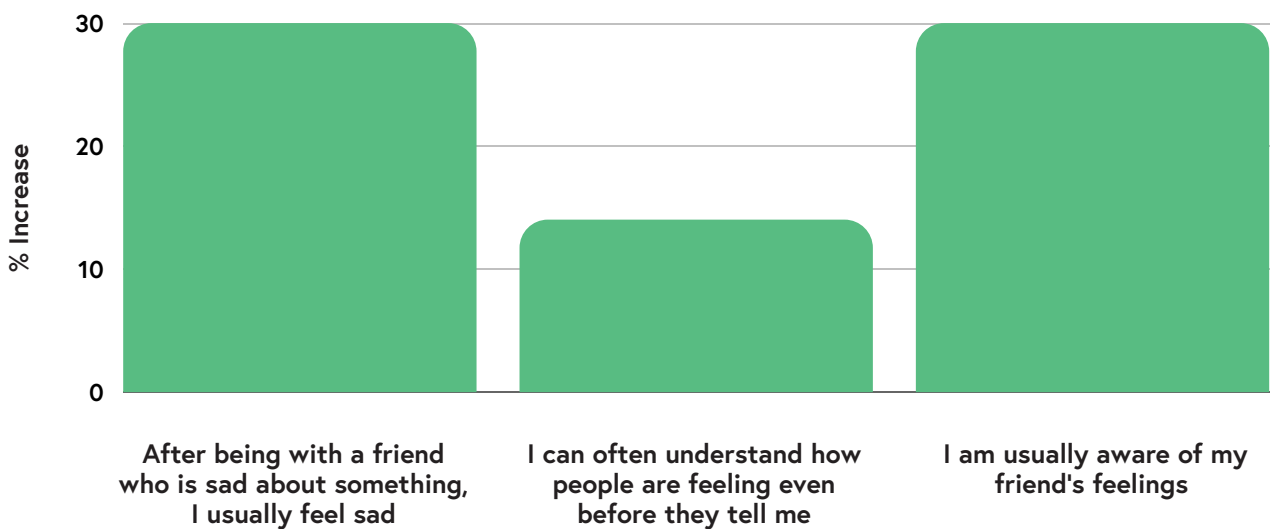


Overall, how much do you feel you belong at your school?

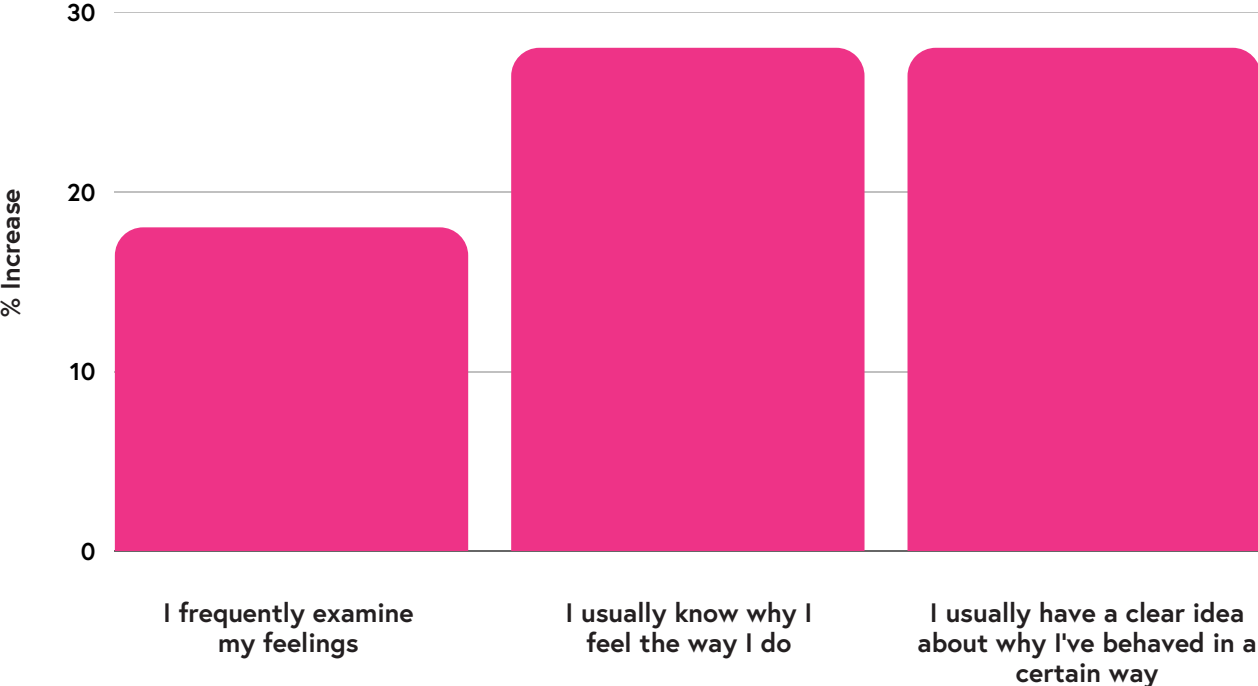
% Increase

(1 = do not matter at all / 5 = matter a tremendous amount)

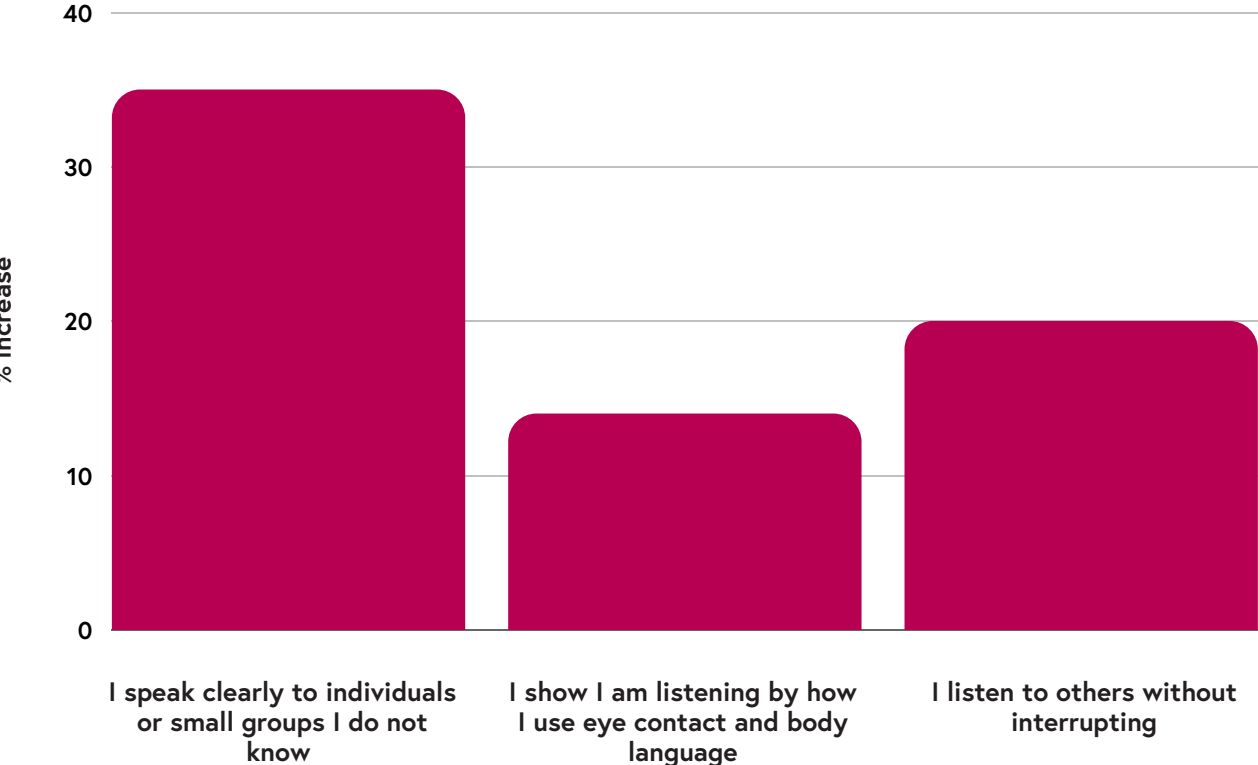
Empathy



Self Awareness



Communication



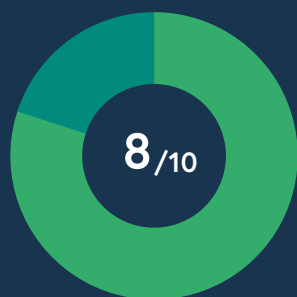
The Oppidan Academy

The Oppidan Academy (TOA) is an annual work experience programme for students from schools across the UK.

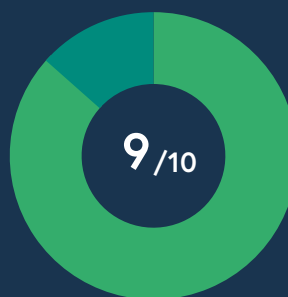
Its primary aim is to provide invaluable insights into potential future careers, the world of business, and the essential skills required for their next steps. TOA integrates enlightening presentations from professionals spanning diverse industries with interactive skills workshops. These components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

This year we were joined by 30 brilliant 16-18 year olds, with a focus 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 essential transferable skills.

Impact Highlights:

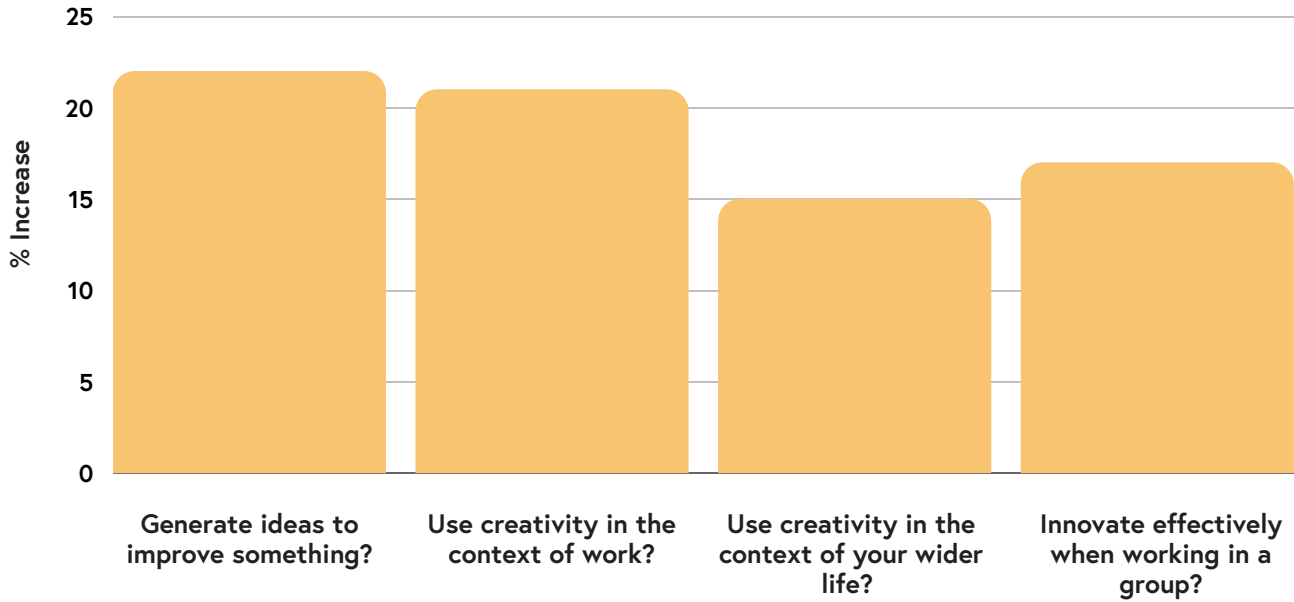


How influential has this experience been in motivating you towards your goals?

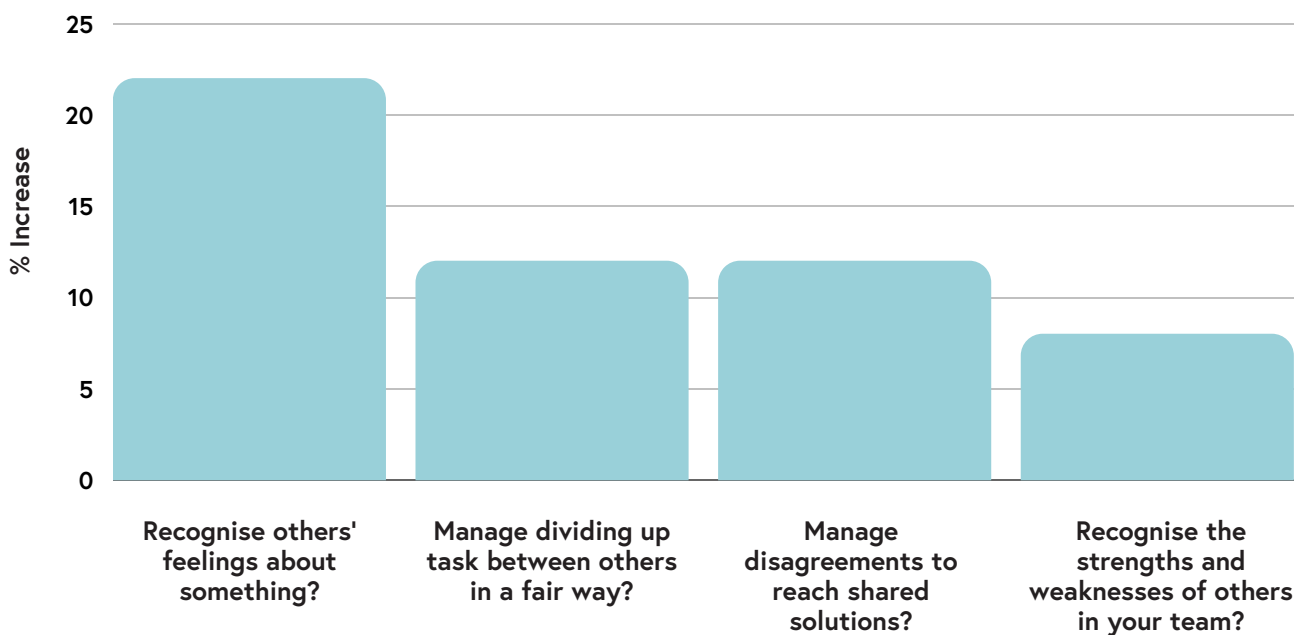


How would you rate this programme overall?

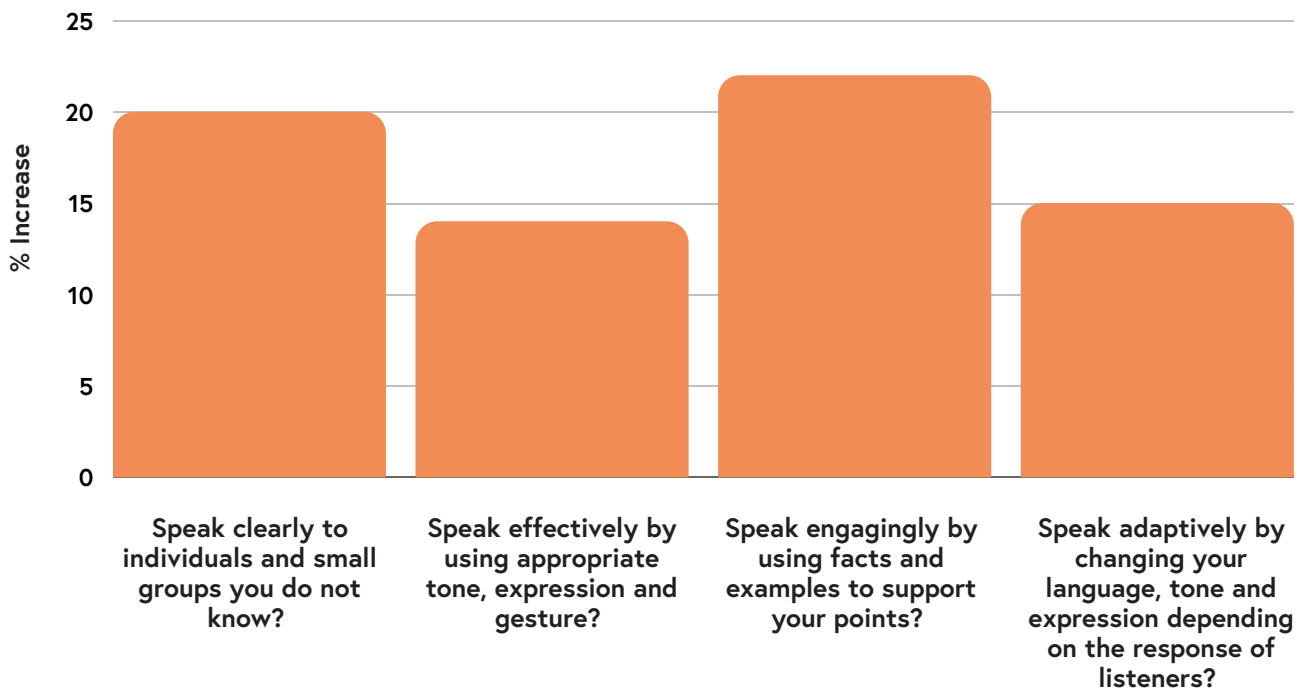
Creativity



Leadership



Speaking



Concluding Thoughts

Oppidan is delighted to have worked with all of our brilliant partner schools and would like to thank them for all of their help in integrating these programmes. The exciting data that we see emerging will continue to develop in schools across regions, sectors and age phases.

The success of each programme lies in developing bonds between pupils and their mentor, be that a peer or an adult mentor. The forging of mentor/mentee relationships aims to provide an added layer of support, that will foster confidence, community and character development.

The insights shown across our programmes reflect the continuing role that mentoring can play in the context of school life. We look forward to working closely alongside our partner schools in this new academic year and are excited about the impact we will see.

Many thanks,

THE OPPIDAN TEAM

