



Park View
School

At St Chad's College, we believe that living in a diverse and inclusive community is an important aspect of our lifelong learning and education. We want to ensure that able students from *all* racial, ethnic, religious, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds are able to benefit from opportunities at Durham University.



Our cohort of 25 AIM scholars from Park View School in Chester-le-Street visiting the College in November 2017

As part of our commitment to Widening Participation in higher education, we are working with Park View School in Chester-le-Street to offer 25 of their Year 12 pupils the chance to experience student life at St Chad's College at Durham University over the next two years as part of our AIM programme. Each of these pupils has been identified by their teachers as having the academic

potential to apply to a Russell Group university, and submitted a written application and participated in an observed discussion and presentation task to gain admittance to the programme in November 2017.

The programme, which will see these pupils make 18 monthly visits to the College, is designed to help them develop their soft skills, academic skills, and self-confidence, and to help them feel 'at home' at Durham University. Sessions include group and individual activities that will help them develop

- oral communication
- written communication
- personal organisation
- problem solving ability
- critical thinking
- research skills
- interdisciplinary intellectual curiosity
- personal effectiveness
- social and civic responsibility
- resilience and self-care

Pupils will also benefit from access to Durham University's libraries and regular contact with their Student Mentor, a current undergraduate student from St Chad's College who will encourage, motivate, and support them on their path towards higher education.

It is our hope that a significant proportion of these 25 students will choose to make a UCAS application to Durham University and St Chad's College; however, we also want them to feel confident enough to apply to other highly selective universities, too. The College has committed to providing a Widening Participation Bursary worth £1000 per year to any AIM scholar who takes up a place at St Chad's College. These bursaries are made possible by the generosity of our alumni and supporters. For more information on how to support our work in the area of Widening Participation, please visit <https://www.stchads.ac.uk/alumni/giving-to-chads/>

The AIM programme has been awarded over £7000 of funding from Durham University. This funding will allow us to collect data from this cohort as part of a pilot project to assess the efficacy of this kind of college-based longitudinal WP intervention with a select cohort of pupils. We are grateful for the support of Durham University, and are keen to help other colleges develop similar programmes in the future to ensure that more able pupils from North East schools are encouraged to apply to Durham University.