

Kusuma Sutton Scholars

Partner: The Sutton Trust / University of Nottingham
Location: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, UK
Key Beneficiaries: 600 bright non-privileged pupils aged 11 to 16 in state schools
Grant Period: 1 December 2015 to 31 July 2019



The programme supports 600 bright state school students pre-GCSE (age 11-16) in former coalfield communities to boost their aspirations and improve their academic performance.

The programme aims to ensure that there is a bigger pool of talented low and middle-income students from coalfield communities from which leading universities can recruit. The Kusuma Trust UK is supporting the Scholars programme at the University of Nottingham with a grant to The Sutton Trust over three years.

Kusuma Sutton Scholars supports students through a series of school visits, project days, campus visits and academic mentoring provided by the university's community learning hubs. Students also receive advice on their GCSE options and further education choices.

The programme aims to create a pipeline of young people for sixth form university programmes, including summer schools and Pathways initiatives.

Since the beginning of 2016, over 300 students have participated in briefing sessions on the Scholars programme and what to expect of university life, and were given support to understand their strengths and areas of improvement. Over 120 Year 7 students participated in campus visits at the University of Nottingham in June and parents attended a welcome evening to help them understand the value and the content of the scholarship programme. Twenty schools from coalfield communities in Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire have joined the programme.

