Project Title: Girls Enrichment Mentoring (GEMs) project

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Department: History

Describe the project in your own words:

To mentor and build the confidence of year eleven girls, through organising and putting on a charity event.

Why did you apply for a team volunteering project?

I applied for a team volunteering project because I wanted to get more involved with the community action within the university. A team volunteering project enabled me to meet others with the same interests and motives for applying.

What were the highlights of your project?

Seeing all the hard work the girls had put in culminating in the actual event itself was a big highlight of the project, particularly as the girls were so excited and pleased at what they had achieved. For me one of the most memorable highlights was when we held an extra after school baking session for the girls, it wasn't compulsory and not everyone came.

What did you gain from your project?

I think what I gained most from the project was an insight into the challenges some sixteen year old face and the added pressure from circumstances outside of school. While developing my team working skills I also feel I learnt a lot about the difference and challenges of addressing young adults as compared to people your own age or younger children, of whom I had previously done a lot of work with.

Did the project influence any future career plans?

Prior to the project I had already considered a career working with children in care and this still stands. The project has however led me to consider teaching, especially after some Teach First training which we received which I particularly enjoyed.

What advice would you give students considering taking part in a team volunteering project?

Definitely do it!! Be prepared to go in with an open mind and no matter how much experience you have already be ready to learn different ways to approach difficulties or problems.