



CREATIVE MENTOR NETWORK

We train mentors and connect
them with diverse young talent



What we do?

We are a charity working for better representation in the creative industries.

We work with schools in London and Greater London with a high number of students on Free School Meals, low employer engagement and high ethnic diversity to select driven 16-19 year olds from less advantaged backgrounds.

We match creative professionals with talented 6th Form students who may lack access to the networks, insights and financial support they need to break into the creative industries. And we train our mentors to have the most impact possible.

Everyone wins: supportive careers advice and guidance for students; rigorous and inspiring training for mentors; access to diverse talent for creative businesses.





Why we exist

To promote social mobility

When young people and their parents know what jobs are out there and where the vacancies are they're more likely to make choices that challenge their assumptions about the right job for "people like me" (Gatsby Foundation).

Our mentors support young people to learn more about the jobs available in the creative industries, and the routes in.

To build social capital

Young people who make 4+ professional connections before leaving school, are 5x more employable and earn up to 18% more (Educational Endowment Foundation).

Our mentors help young people to make at least 4 new professional connections.

To develop soft skills

Research shows employers value what people can do more than exam results. As the world of work changes, employers seek individuals who can communicate well, adapt and solve problems creatively (NESTA).

We train our mentors to support young people to develop soft skills they need to compete.



Why the creative industries?

Employment opportunities

The sector accounts for 2.6 million jobs, and 1 in 11 graduate jobs in the UK.

Sector growth

The creative industries are the UK's leading economy, beating even of the financial services industry, it contributes over £84 billion a year.

Future-proof

As more and more jobs become obsolete, creative jobs are the jobs of the future. 87% of highly creative workers are at no risk of automation, compared with 40% in the UK workforce as a whole.

Happiness

Creative occupations are characterised by higher than average levels of life satisfaction, worthwhileness and happiness.

How it works

We visit your school to talk to your students

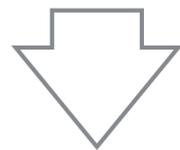
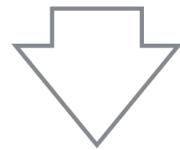
Students complete an online application.

Successful students are invited for a phone interview.

Those selected attend our assessment workshop, preparing them to get the most from the mentoring process and link up start networking with their peers on their cohort.

Weekly or bi-weekly meetings with mentors.

Recruiters meet your students at our showcasing event.



“CNM provides proactive industry mentors offering industry insights, work experience and support with apprenticeship applications. As a result of the programme, students have become more focussed and conscientious about their studies. It has also confirmed their interest and confidence in pursuing a career in the creative industry.”

Diana Mensah, Careers, Bridge Academy

Our impact in numbers

25

partner schools and colleges

40+

Creative businesses signed up

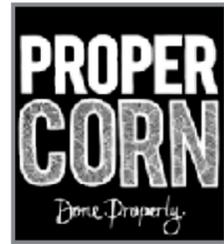
80%+

students access further work opportunities as a result of the programme

300+

Ambassadors of the programme, mentors and mentees, highly engaged in the mission





Our partner businesses

We work with leading creative organisations across the worlds of advertising, marketing, digital, design, music, fashion and publishing.

We believe meaningful careers guidance for students is best delivered in partnership with creative industry innovators, and while students are still at school.

We select our partners to deliver the best outcomes for our young people.



Our funders





What young people say

Momina, 18, currently doing a placement at her mentor's agency, WCRS

"Before I did this, I didn't know what area I wanted to explore, I just wanted to get more information on the industry. Now I want to do Creative Producing. I've met so many people who work in different areas - my mentor is amazing and has introduced me to loads of people who have roles that I didn't even know existed. It's crazy! I went to a photo shoot - they were doing six pictures for Instagram and it took two days. The attention to detail is amazing.

I like to be very organised and can be a bit of a neat freak with everything I do. I love organising things for my friends and I didn't realise there was a job out there that I could use this for. The creative side put together with planning, it's in my DNA to be like that and I've found out I can do it as a career and there's money in it!"

What businesses say

Jenny, Talent Manager at Lucky Generals

“Finding new staff - even at a junior level - is challenging and time-consuming. The lengthy process invariably steers me towards shortlisting those with internships in the field, all too often obtained by those with ‘contacts’.

The members of our team who mentor get so much from working with their young mentees. With the added benefit of the training they’re getting from the Mentor Development Programme, we get a lot from our involvement.

The recruitment process is excellent. Delivering smart, enthusiastic candidates from diverse backgrounds who, post-mentoring, may join our team makes Creative Mentor Network invaluable.”



Get involved

We are always looking to work with new schools.

To find out more about getting your students involved, please email Isabel at isabel@creativementor.network.

We charge business to be involved, keeping it accessible for schools.

Places on the course cost £50 / student.



“I think the main thing the students get is a sense of empowerment that they have been given an opportunity to really engage with their career ideas.”

Chris Jarvis, Careers, St Angela's, Newham

A photograph of a group of people in a social setting, possibly a cafe or restaurant. In the center, a woman with blonde hair is smiling and looking towards a man on the right. To her left, a woman with dark hair and large hoop earrings is also looking towards the man. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and warm lighting from pendant lamps. The text 'Case Study: Rasheka' and 'Click here' is overlaid on the image.

Case Study: Rasheka
[Click here](#)

A photograph of a woman wearing a grey hijab and a white long-sleeved shirt, and a man in a white long-sleeved shirt, sitting at a table outdoors. The table is set with white plates of food, glasses, and a centerpiece of lemons and greenery. A server in a dark uniform is standing to the left, holding a bowl. The background shows a wooden deck and a white canopy. The text 'Case Study: Momina' and 'Click here' is overlaid on the image.

Case Study: Momina
[Click here](#)



Case Study: Louis
[Click here](#)