

The Girls Network are an award-winning charity that inspires and empowers girls from the least advantaged communities by connecting them with a network of positive female role models.

Girls from the poorest communities are held back at school and in life. They face the double disadvantage of gender and wealth inequality. Compared to their male peers and wealthier female counterparts they are less likely to do well at school, less likely to go on to university and less likely to enter the world of work. The Girls' Network is working to change this.

Background

The charity was founded by Becca Dean and Charly Young in London in 2012 while they were working as teachers as part of the Teach First Leadership Development Programme. Becca and Charly started inviting women from their own networks into their schools to speak to the girls. Both the girls and their visitors found the conversations so inspiring that they wanted to make more of a long-term commitment and the first mentoring relationships were established. More women heard about the work and asked to join in, and so The Girls' Network was born. The Girls' Network is now working in four regions and has mentored over 1000 girls.

With the aid of Big Lottery funding, The Girls' Network is launching in Manchester, with mentoring set to begin in January 2017. They are now seeking to partner with key organisations and women in the Manchester area to build an exciting new network of mentors who can work with girls from some of the most challenging backgrounds to create a new future.

MENTORING

They are seeking female mentors within Alliance MBS and across the wider University of Manchester to volunteer **one hour a month** to mentor girls between 14-19. This will be a **year-long commitment** to a girl, who you will meet with monthly for structured conversations around career development, interview skills, setting goals and plenty of chances for you to innovate and tailor the programme to her needs. Mentoring sessions last one hour.

In order for you to find out more Alliance MBS are hosting an information session:

Wednesday 30th November 2:00-3:00pm

3.44A Simon Building, MBS

Please contact [Michelle Kipling](#) to register for this event. Attendance at the session does not mean that becoming a mentor is compulsory. You may decide it is not for you – but please take this opportunity to learn more.

The mentor journey then starts by applying [here](#) so they can get to know you better. They ask that you please complete your application as soon as possible after the Information session so it can be processed.

Once you have successfully applied, you will need to **complete a DBS check for this** (which you will be able to use for any other volunteering roles within the next three years).

You will then be invited to a **Girls' Network Mentor Training Session (date and time tbc in December)**.

At this session **they** give you the skills and tool kit to mentor a teenage girl.

Next January- February, you will attend a mentor and mentee **Matching Event** where you are matched up with a girl based on ambitions, interests and industry. They excel in matching and you can be confident in being matched with a girl who you will form a strong bond with.

'My mentor through The Girls' Network has taught me to believe in myself and be more confident. This has had an impact on the way I work at school, so I would highly recommend it' – mentee, 2016