

An update of recent events at Generating Genius

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Welcome to our August Newsletter

A message from Zindzi Sewell,
our Director of Programmes & Partnerships



We have had a fantastic month of programmes including the return of some in-person events, work experience and internships on some programmes too.

Congratulations to our Year 13 students who received their A-level results! They have worked so hard this year, despite the challenges of the pandemic, both at school and on their university preparation and career development with Generating Genius. Congratulations to our six students heading to Oxford and Cambridge. They are Ayomide Lambe (Medicine, Cambridge), Holly Agbukor (PPE, Oxford), Layo Akinola (English, Cambridge), Safy Oshoala (Computer Science, Cambridge), Adubea Larson (Engineering, Cambridge) and Chiamaka Umeh (Natural Sciences,

Cambridge).

The highlight of this month for the Generating Genius team was bringing our Year 12's together in person. This was for our two STEM Future Leaders Leadership Academies in London and the Destination Leeds Students Finale Event. It was wonderful for us all to see the engagement, learning and networking amongst the students and particularly great to see the start of friendships of students from across the country.

I would like to thank the AKO Foundation, Sony Pictures, GH0 Capital, Barclays, PWC and IRI who have provided work experience for the Year 12 STEM Future Leaders. A special "thank you" to the AKO Foundation who sponsor the STEM Future Leaders programme.

Uni Genius Update

TWIN Success - Generating Genius twins, Ruth and Elizabeth Adeyeye, are both off to university to study medicine, with 4 A*s each



Ruth and Elizabeth out celebrating their amazing achievements.

Ruth Adeyeye and Elizabeth Adeyeye are non-identical twins on the Generating Genius programme from London. Both girls received 4A*s at A-level and are going on to study medicine. Ruth is going to UCL and Elizabeth to Imperial.

Read the interview below with both Elizabeth and Ruth. This interview was done with Ruth and Elizabeth by Waseem Ali who is on Generating Genius and is about to enter the 2nd year of his Medicine degree at Nottingham.

What results did you each get for each of your subjects?

'We received the same results in the same subjects'

Elizabeth: Biology (A*), Chemistry (A*), Maths (A*), EPQ(A*)

Ruth - Biology (A*), Chemistry (A*), Maths (A*), EPQ(A*)

Did you both check UCAS together or separately?

(Ruth speaking)

'We both signed into UCAS together; however, I got my results first, and Elizabeth's UCAS lagged, which made the entire experience more stressful. It reminded us of the time we received our BMAT results. We hate getting results online.'

Did you revise and prepare for exams and assessments together over the last two years?

(Ruth Speaking)

'During year 12, we revised and prepared for exams together. However, in Year 13, it was more challenging to revise together because of our medical interviews which had been scheduled at different times in the year. I had my interviews earlier in the year, whereas Elizabeth had hers much later in the year, i.e. March and April. So as Elizabeth prepared for her interviews, I did independent study and vice versa.

The situation with covid also meant our interviews were online. There were positives and negatives to having online interviews. For example, a positive was that we were at home and in a comfortable environment. However, my Imperial interview was pre-recorded instead of being live, and we only had 1 minute to answer the questions at each of the seven stations.'

(Elizabeth speaking)

I enjoyed my UCL interview, especially compared to the interviews I had at other universities. The interview was in the panel format, which I liked because I found that it was more relaxed. However, when I first joined the UCL interview, my computer crashed, which as you can imagine was extremely stressful. Fortunately, the UCL interviewers were really nice about it.

mainly applied to Oxford because my teacher was pressuring me to. However, deep down, I always wanted to study Medicine at UCL. This is because I had many mentors who went to UCL, so it is really nice for me to go there too.

Elizabeth - How are you feeling about going to Imperial?

'In December, Imperial rejected me due to my BMAT score, which did not meet the non-widening and participation cut off score. However, my score exceeded the widening and participation cut off score, for which I qualified as a contextual applicant. After appealing my rejection, they realised that they had made a mistake. Therefore, at first, I was mad, as it was also one of the reasons I had my interview so late in the year and because of their mistake, I also experienced a bit of imposter syndrome. However, after attending the offer holder day and joining the university's WhatsApp group chats, I am now really excited to begin.'

Ruth - What made you want to study Medicine?

'At times I was a bit unsure about applying as people were constantly telling me the negatives. However, after my work experience at a dermatology placement, I really liked the atmosphere and found it comforting. I also enjoyed watching the patients appreciate what the doctors were doing for them. What I particularly love about Medicine is the interaction with patients. I cannot imagine myself pursuing an only science-based career.'

Elizabeth - What made you want to study Medicine?

'I was not sure if I wanted to apply for Medicine in year 12. However, through exploring other career paths by attending multiple work experiences, I realised that I did not enjoy them as much as my medicine placements. I especially liked my work experience at the Royal Trinity Hospice. Although it was nerve-racking, talking to the patients was a lovely experience, and I really enjoyed forming connections with them. What I particularly love about Medicine is the variety of specialities I can pursue.'

Ruth - How has Generating Genius helped you with preparing for university and the world of work so far?

'Generating Genius gave me my first mentor, Faizah, who is also a medical student at UCL. Faizah helped me with my personal statement and was overall very helpful during the application process. I also found the UCAT a rather scary experience as I didn't know many others who were doing Medicine, so it was beneficial having the guidance of my mentor during that time. I also found the medicine/chemistry workshops with Leeds University very helpful.'

Elizabeth - How has Generating Genius helped you with preparing for university and the world of work so far?

'Generating Genius also gave me a mentor who was a medical student. My mentor helped to give me a clear insight into not only the medicine application process but also to medicine as a career. I also found the Ditchley Foundation Trip very helpful. It was inspiring to hear the stories of the successful alumni and to hear application advice from the Cambridge admissions team. Furthermore, being surrounded by equally ambitious students was a fantastic motivator to work harder.'

Further Uni Genius Updates

The Uni Genius team has had a jam-packed summer of events! We hosted over 100 of our talented young people for in-person events throughout August on both our Uni Genius and STEM Future Leaders programmes.

Students on our university preparation programmes with the University of Cambridge, University of Leeds and University College London have received workshops to develop their personal statements, learn about degree courses and hear about scholarships and university access programmes during the past month. We hosted our students enrolled on our Destination Leeds programme for an in-person event in London. Current University of Leeds undergraduate students and staff shared the wonderful opportunities available to them at our northern partner.

On our STEM Future Leaders programme, sponsored by the AKO Foundation, our students joined us in central London for our Leadership Academy run by leadership and soft skills training experts



In organisational news, Generating Genius are excited to introduce Dr Alexander Tansell, who has now taken on the role of Head of Mentoring and Uni Genius. Alex has moved from the Grid for Good programme and joins the Uni Genius programme with a background in widening access to higher education and STEM outreach.

Future Talent Pathway Programme Update



Congratulations to our 56 students and mentors who have graduated from the 12-month Salesforce and Generating Genius mentoring programme. A special congratulations to David Sangojinmi, a student on the mentoring programme, for receiving a 12-week summer internship as a Solution Engineering Intern this summer. We look forward to another cohort starting this October. Our 46 mentors and mentees on our Discover HSBC - Career and Job application mentoring programme have so far been thriving, with lots of positive feedback from the students. Safy, incoming Computer Science student on the programme, has said of his mentoring so far 'I have really enjoyed my sessions and learning a lot from Mark already'. Thank you to all the HSBC volunteer mentors in the Digital Business Services department.

Grid for Good Powered by National Grid with Generating Genius Update

Work Experience

In August, 9 GG students completed their 2 weeks long work experience placement with the National Grid in their onsite locations throughout England, Scotland and Wales!

Freya Grant - 2nd Year Physics student @ the University of Nottingham,

'I'm so excited to have been on site for the delivery of a new £1.7million SuperGrid Transformer to the new Sanford Substation as part of the Hinkley Connection Project ran by National Grid.'



Technology Insight Week

At the beginning of the month, 44 students took part in a Technology Insight Week with the National Grid. They attended 3 insight talks to hear how technology is used in the Energy sector to move towards Net Zero Carbon Emissions and how coding skills are relevant in an organisation like National Grid. They also brushed up on their presentation and public speaking skills in our Confidence Building workshop!

Finally, 20 students took part in a 2-day challenge set by the Data Science Team and used their coding skills to find a solution to an Electrical Transmission problem!

'I really enjoyed learning about the work of technology professionals at National Grid, through insight talks. These talks gave me useful knowledge of what Tech at National Grid entails from those who actually make tech happen. These talks also showed me how technology relates to the work of the energy sector generally. I now have a better practical understanding of some of the skills involved with making sure digital energy delivery infrastructure runs safely and efficiently.'
1st Year Chemistry Student

Get Ahead Insight Week

Our second insight week of the month saw penultimate and final year students attending talks and panels aimed at supporting them through the application process for Graduate Schemes and Graduate Jobs. They heard from graduates at both National Grid and Stantec, as well as taking part in an interview skills workshop with a focus around virtual interviews. The challenge of the week saw students working in small groups in a simulation assessment centre.

Explore National Grid Work Experience

35 students aged 16-18 years old took part in work experience to get a better insight into who

set by graduate volunteers.

Thank You!



It's only due to the support of our donors and delivery partners that we can make all of these excellent events happen. We thank all the organisations that make our work possible.

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