**THOMAS’S FOUNDATION PATHWAY**

**Information for Primary School Head Teachers**

Thomas’s Foundation Pathway is a programme run by the charity Thomas’s Foundation. Its purpose is to give your Year 5 more able disadvantaged pupils an enriching, challenging and stimulating experience with a group of like-minded peers. It will also contribute to them joining their senior schools with ambition, confidence and broad horizons.

The objective is to widen access and increase the range of opportunity for children

from diverse backgrounds. It aims to complement what your school offers by providing opportunities to go beyond the curriculum and engage in open-ended, investigative tasks that allow for discussion, collaboration, problem-solving and exploration. The programme may lead to pupils applying to selective state secondary schools, academies or bursary funded places at independent day or boarding schools. We shall help pupils and their parents to explore the range of schools available and offer information and support as needed. We do not provide entrance examination preparation or practice during the sessions but do provide free access to the learning platform Atom Learning which provides practice in Maths, English, Verbal and NonVerbal Reasoning

Only pupils who are recommended by their Head Teacher are eligible and need to be pupils who are in receipt of free school meals/pupil premium. Pupil and family commitment to the year-long programme is essential.

**What is the programme?**

* The project is funded by Thomas’s Foundation and is free for participants
* The sessions are run by Thomas’s London Day Schools teachers
* The approach will be multi-disciplinary and will include investigative maths and science, exploring literature and elements of art, music, drama and sport
* It runs from the January of Year 5 to the December of Year 6
* Sessions are held at Thomas’s Battersea from 9.00am to 12.45pm on one Saturday morning each month
* In July, two full days of activities are held. We will request your permission for your pupils to attend as these are during the school week. There are no sessions in August
* Stationery and other resources are provided

**How to apply**

* During the Autumn Term the Head Teacher identifies a year 5 pupil or pupils likely to be suitable for the programme. The two main criteria for recommendation are ability (an enquiring mind, motivation and exceptional academic potential) and economic need (i.e meets the criteria for free school meals/pupil premium) and /or pastoral or other circumstances meaning the child would benefit from additional support.
* Normally, we shall accept no more than two pupils per school. Should additional places become available, we may ask you for further nominations
* The Head Teacher downloads and completes a pupil nomination form from the ‘Pathway’ section of the website [www.thomassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.thomassfoundation.org.uk)
* The Head Teacher will also download the pupil application form and pass to Parents/carers for them to complete
* Once both forms are completed, Head Teachers should return them electronically to **lhorstead@thomassfoundation.org.uk** by 22 October 2021.
* We shall confirm places on the programme by mid November.

If you have any questions please contact:

Jill Kelham at jkelham@thomassfoundation.org.uk or 07921 169741 or Lucy Horstead at lhorstead@thomassfoundation.org.uk or 0203 327 4691

JK/TFPathway/Heads/Sept21