



## Woodside High School

White Hart Lane, Wood Green, London N22 5QJ

Telephone: 020 8889 6761, Fax: 020 8365 8164

Email: [mail@woodsidehighschool.co.uk](mailto:mail@woodsidehighschool.co.uk)

Website: [www.woodsidehighschool.co.uk](http://www.woodsidehighschool.co.uk)

Our Ref: WHS/EMC/GR/JB

10<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### To whom it may concern,

I am writing to share with you the successful outcomes of our partnership with One Degree over the last academic year.

During the academic year of 2015/16, Woodside High School had 49 students enrolled on the One Degree programme. These students had been carefully identified as they were at risk of not achieving C grades in their English and Maths GCSEs.

One Degree worked with these 49 students on Saturdays to prepare them for their final GCSE examinations. The Saturdays were carefully planned to include specialist teaching in Maths and English, mentoring with high quality mentors and team building activities. On each Saturday the students also heard from inspiring and motivational guest speakers.

Throughout the academic year, One Degree liaised carefully with our own Heads of Department, sharing data and ensuring that the teaching being delivered on Saturdays was targeted and specific to the individual student needs.

We were delighted in the summer to learn that our overall school results had increased by a massive 30%, from 44% 5A\*-C including English and Maths in 2015 to 74% in 2016. 77% of the students who had taken part in the One Degree achieved 5A\*-C including English and Maths. These outcomes were particularly impressive given the fact that very few of these students had been predicted to achieve C grades and above.

Whilst the results were important, it was also very pleasing to note that students' attitudes improved over the course of the programme. Students grew in confidence and resilience and felt more able to face the pressures of the GCSE exams and to look beyond school to make choices about their future. We are clear that the mentoring from One Degree and listening to the guest speakers had a clear impact on our students.

Over the course of the last year we have found One Degree to be highly professional and organised. The communication from the One Degree team has been exemplary and fitted around our needs as a school. We have already begun to plan our One Degree programme for our current Year 11 cohort of students and are looking forward to seeing such an impressive impact again.

The vision and values of One Degree are very similar to those we hold as a school. One Degree believes in removing barriers and giving young people the opportunity to succeed. This is particularly important in a school like Woodside High School, where the vast majority of our students receive the Pupil Premium and speak English as an additional language. Woodside High is located in an area of significant socio-economic deprivation, and as a school we look for every chance to offer our students the opportunity to succeed. The outcomes achieved by the students who took part in the One Degree programme speak for themselves.

We endorse One Degree without reservation.

Yours faithfully,  
*Gerry Robinson*  
Gerry Robinson  
Co-Headteacher

Co-Head Teachers: Ms Elma McElligott & Ms Gerry Robinson

