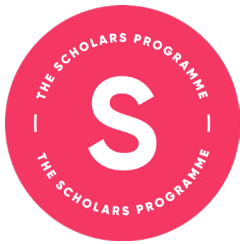


# The Brilliant Club Case Study



**Tutor Name:**  
Amy de Bruycker

**PhD Research Area:**  
Career Decisions of Female  
Junior Doctors in the NHS

**PhD University:**  
University of Leicester

**Tutor since:** September 2017

**Brilliant Club Programme:**  
The Scholars Programme



## Which schools have you taught at?

Rushey Mead, Kennington's Primary Academy, Benyon Primary School & Dilkes Academy, Leicester College, Hamilton Academy, Long Field Academy, Beaumont Leys, Beauchamp College, Kettering Science Academy, Kingswood Secondary Academy, Rushey Mead Academy, Arthur Mellows Village College, Brooke Weston Academy, Sir Jonathan North Community College, Martin High School Anstey, Fullhurst Community College, Judgemeanow Community College

## What is your Scholars Programme course title?

We all Want to Change the World: Understanding Social Movements

## What made you want to apply to be a Scholars Programme tutor?

I wanted to experience something outside of academia.

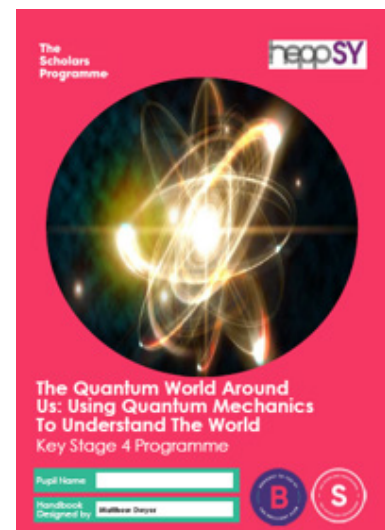
## What has been the most rewarding moment of your Scholars Programme placement so far?

I enjoy time spent with all of my pupils. Seeing them overcome challenges and write their final assignments is always special to me.

When I tell the pupils they have to write 2000 words most of them cringe. They tell me they can't do it.

I had one pupil who told me that she was not smart enough to go to university. She said that she didn't want to be part of The Scholars Programme, she did not care about school. I asked her to give me a chance. I was glad that she trusted me enough to give it a try.

She completed her final assignment and got a first!



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When we had the feedback session and I gave her the grade, she asked me if I was serious, told me she thought she had failed (they always say that!). She told me she thought she may be able to go to university, although she wasn't sure that is what she wanted to do. She said she knew now that it was an option.



That's what I want for all of my pupils - they are all capable and can do it if they try. They just have to be willing to try.

## **Tell me about being a Scholars Programme tutor. How has it helped in your development as a research student?**

I think the pupils remind me not to take things too seriously. They are interested in learning something new - something different from their core courses. They ask questions that make you think about your own research in different ways. I always journal after my sessions, to reflect on what went well and also note down any ideas I've gotten from class!

## **What have you gained from being part of the Scholars Programme community of researchers?**

Ah! Scholars Programme tutors are the absolute best kind of people. The best part of the training weekends is hearing from people who have been doing placements and getting tips from them. They are all smart, compassionate and driven people.

I have gained new friends and some really valuable teaching advice.

## **How has the Scholars Programme affected the way you approach undergraduate teaching?**

I would strongly recommend that they do it, as they get the experience of designing their own course, and get valuable experience of taking the lead in the delivery of the programme. This isn't something that you get normally during a PhD and was a great experience.

## **How do you think you have made a difference to pupils as a Scholars Programme tutor?**

I don't know. I hope that I have... I just want them to leave my class knowing that they are all smart and capable. Hard work pays off, and they can do it. If they leave with a little bit more confidence, then I consider myself successful.

## **Do you have any advice for someone looking to apply to work as a Scholars Programme tutor?**

Do apply!! It is my favourite thing I do as a PhD researcher. It has helped me tremendously as a researcher and a teacher.

Be yourself - and always remember who your audience is. The Brilliant Club will train you to pitch your research to a non-specialist audience but do try to work on this a bit yourself.

To find out more about how you could become a Scholars Programme tutor, please visit our website at [www.thebrilliantclub.org](http://www.thebrilliantclub.org)