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Patron Capital inspires students at The LifeLine Independent School

Last month, Patron's Development Director Kevin Cooke conducted two mentoring sessions at The LifeLine School in Dagenham. The LifeLine Independent School is a unique provision that allows students with a disrupted educational background the opportunity to catch up with their peers in under 10 months. In addition to targeted academic studies, The LifeLine Independent School curriculum includes vocational training, business skills, work placements and offers students support from more than 30 volunteer mentors.

Students taking part in the mentoring programme experienced a significant improvement in wellbeing* whilst 89% of students and 75% of teachers reported that students' behaviour had improved over the course of mentoring programmes.

As part of The LifeLine Independent School's award-winning VIP Mentoring programme, Kevin will help students find their vision for their future, gain confidence in their own identity and give them opportunities to find their purpose in life.

Speaking about his own life and career, Kevin spoke first to a group of nearly 30 children, aged 14-16 years old. These children had missed the opportunity to attend Year 11 schooling in their catchment area, having moved to or within the UK too late in the year.

The second group comprised just three students, who had a disrupted education as a result of exclusion from other schools. These students – part of SWITCH Expeditions, a ground-breaking LifeLine Independent School concept – struggled in mainstream education. SWITCH Expeditions takes a more vocational and nurturing approach to learning in a business-like educational environment and mentorship programmes play an important role in the curriculum.

During his engaging mentoring sessions, Kevin spoke about his own experiences and explained that anyone can be successful if they are opportunistic and approach the world of work in a positive way. This line of thinking is in tune with Patron's approach to business: the company has achieved success by leveraging opportunities that others might overlook.

Patron is proud to provide support for LifeLine in nurturing young people. To find out more about The LifeLine Independent School and ways in which you can contribute to their invaluable work please visit www.lifelineprojects.co.uk.

* Measured using the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS)