

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**From London Met to Massachusetts for Islington pupils**

Secondary school students from Islington are jetting off to America as part of an award winning community project.

Twelve pupils have been selected to visit Boston, USA, to take part in a study week at the University of Massachusetts. The visit is part of the Upward Bound programme, which aims to boost the aspirations of local GCSE students.

Run by London Metropolitan University, the scheme offers pupils with predicted grades of C-D the chance to receive top-class teaching in a university environment, as well as help with any social or cultural difficulties that they encounter.

Every participant in the project has received 5 GCSEs between grades A – C, with overall results higher than the borough's average.

Sophie Clutterbuck, Student Participation and Transitions Manager at London Met, said: "Each year we offer the highest achievers who've taken part in the programme the opportunity to visit Boston for a study week.

"This can be very inspiring for the participants, and previous students have gone on to win full university scholarships".

More than 30 London Met students help in the project, along with lecturers and other University staff, teachers from local schools and professionals who give up their time to participate.

The initiative recently scooped a top prize at the annual London Education Partnership Awards. Judges decided to allocate the prestigious Chair's Award to the project in recognition of its achievement.

James Russell, from the London Education Partnership, said: "The Chair's Award is not awarded every year – it is only given if there is an outstanding project that the panel particularly want to highlight.

"The judges were impressed by the way the Upward Bound programme has successfully tailored an American model to meet local needs.

"They also felt that offering an exciting international experience to students was a great opportunity for the young people involved."

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**Notes to editors:**

The Upward Bound initiative is run by London Metropolitan University in partnership with Cambridge Education @ Islington, the Dame Alice Owen Foundation and the University of Massachusetts.

The participating schools are St Aloysius College, The Central Foundation School for Boys, Islington Arts and Media College, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School, Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Technology College for Girls, Highbury Grove School, Highbury Fields School and Holloway School.

**Images are available on request. Interviews with the study trip students can be arranged by contacting:**

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