

Bank of America Merrill Lynch Education Award

Supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families

Big Tick: Pinsent Masons



Pinsent Masons recognises that continuing success relies not only on a commitment to ongoing education but also the support of local communities. It has worked in partnership with Manchester Academy, Moss Side since 2007 to provide educationally enriching experiences to students and an increasing number of its own people.

The two principal strands of the partnership are a career-orientated mentoring programme, and a reading and maths support programme. These programmes reflect an appreciation of the need to develop academic/career focussed skills and the importance of inspiring students and helping them to develop confidence and enthusiasm to achieve their full potential.

The pivotal component of the mentoring programme is that students are paired with a staff member who acts as a mentor, with both parties committing to the programme for the full school year. The reading and maths programme operates with dedicated pools of volunteers who attend the school each week in term time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for reading and maths sessions.

Impact

- Pride in the firm is increasing with 41% of respondents agreeing strongly that they are proud to work for the firm, compared with 35% in 2006 and 28% in 2005.
- In 2008 the firm was listed in the "Top 10 solicitors by clients" category by the AIM Advisor Index.
- In 2008 35% of students achieved five or more GCSEs at grade C or above (including English and Maths) against a national average of 60.9%. A significant improvement from when Pinsent Masons started work with the Academy when only 21% achieved this level of qualification against a national average of 59.9%.
- In 2007/2008 66% of the students stated that they felt their reading was better as a result of the programme and in 2008/2009 this has increased to 100% of the students.

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