

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS OFFICE

28/03/14

To Whom It May Concern,

Dr Ornette Clennon has made an excellent contribution to MMU Widening Participation through leading the Making Education a Priority project.

Working collaboratively with Dr Clennon has served to engage current students, community members and young people in a common goal to raise aspirations and attainment, and widen the opportunities available to young people in the Manchester area. The MEaP project has and will continue to develop sustainable relationships through its unique multi-agency approach between 'Community' and 'University'. Localised public engagement rolled out across certain University departments over the past two years due to the building development of 'Birley Fields Campus' set in the local area of Hulme. The WP team has sought to develop links through working with schools in this area to enhance the University profile, which has linked closely with Dr Clennon's vision to enhance the community lead education provision in and around Hulme.

The WP team at MMU historically have been incredibly supportive of enhancing the employability skills of the student body, and in particular, those students who chose to become 'Outreach Ambassadors', many of whom are from the widely used WP target groups themselves. Whilst the WP team can offer many opportunities working with schools, being able to offer the ambassadors work with Dr Clennon and the Supplementary schools initiative is incredibly beneficial to their work experience profile.

Dr Clennon has recognised the benefits of using our MMU ambassadors to enhance the aspirational aspect of MEaP, not only for the delivery of some of the education provision, but to act as role models for the young people. The students are expected to develop key research skills for data collection that Dr Clennon can use to measure the impact, and to gauge the change in attitudes towards future aspirations and higher education. This data is essential for the WP team to absorb into the wider evaluation and monitoring for MMU Access agreement reporting for HEFCE.

The WP team at MMU are supportive of the aims of MEaP, and welcome a new approach to working with community education providers through Dr Clennon's links. 'Collaboration' and 'Student Success' are key elements of the institutions vision for engaging with our surrounding communities whilst giving our students the best chance at becoming successful graduates. MEaP can advance the process of establishing these collaborations and links to facilitate such opportunities for our student body.

Yours Sincerely,

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