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IGNITE – THE INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

*Developing leaders of tomorrow*

*A Journey of personal discovery, self-development and opportunity.*

**Introduction and background**

The IGNITE International Leadership Programme is an initiative by George Best Belfast City Airport in collaboration with the award-winning youth charity, Cinemagic, the largest film and television festival in UK and Ireland. The year long programme will provide potentially life-changing opportunities for 100 young people over a 5-year period with 20 young people a year being selected for participation.

Working alongside partners such as the Belfast Giants ice hockey team, mental health charity Inspire, and corporate training firm Achievers Consultancy this innovative and bespoke programme will provide a journey of discovery and personal development to assist in the realisation of opportunities and ambitions. It aims to touch the hearts and minds of young people from a variety of backgrounds across Belfast and North Down. No programme of its kind currently exists in Northern Ireland.

**The principal objectives of the IGNITE programme are to:**

* develop participants’ skills, ambitions, self-esteem and self-confidence;
* build on knowledge and provide meaningful and bespoke work experience to increase opportunities to secure employment and opportunity in the future;
* develop a strong network of contacts, mentors and coaches;
* become the best version of themselves.

**Over the course of the programme, the young people will:**

* understand what drives their behaviour;
* increase their awareness of their physical, emotional and mental well-being;
* build emotional resilience and harness emotional intelligence;
* build effective leadership, team-working and communication skills.

**Programme content will include:**

* masterclasses and inspirational guest speakers;
* practical-based skills development sessions;
* recognised first aid qualification
* tailored work experience;
* an internationally recognised NLP Diploma in Career and Personal Development;
* the opportunity to be selected for a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend 7 days on a life-changing programme in Los Angeles.

**IGNITE – Selection Process**

Each year, a diverse group of 20 young people (aged 16-18) from across greater Belfast and North Down, will be selected for the 12-month programme, enabling over 100 young people to participate in the scheme over a 5-year period. Approaches will be made to schools, FECs as well as nominations from other key stakeholders of the airport.

Our programme partner Cinemagic are passionate about working with and providing opportunity for young people. They embrace the magic of film, television and digital technologies, and work in an exciting and dynamic environment to educate, motivate and inspire young people through film screenings, industry workshops, practical masterclasses, filmmaking projects and outreach activities.

Candidates will be required to complete a short application form and if shortlisted invited to a virtual selection day.

To successfully graduate from the programme, participants must successfully complete their diploma and achieve a minimum attendance rate of 75%. A group of young people will then be selected and offered the opportunity to attend the international module which will be held in Los Angeles.

A special celebration/graduation event will be held in Belfast for all graduates in September 2021.

PR and promotion of the programme will be across various platforms including press, airport communications, Cinemagic promotional routes and various social media channels.

**Programme Dates:**

**Saturday 12th September 2020 (10am – 2pm): “Getting to know you and your team”**

Led by Gerry Kelly and Kieran Devlin from Achievers Consultancy, Practitioners of Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) and highly respected training specialists, the objectives of the first session will be to:

* foster a relaxed learning environment for all participants through icebreakers and team activities;
* provide an insight and overview of the year ahead.

Outcomes of the month will be:

* development of team working, problem solving, and creative thinking skills;
* the setting of short and long-term goals which will be revisited and evaluated at the end of the programme and again, a year following its completion.

*During this month, participants will also have the opportunity to spend time with the Cinemagic Programming team and be given an introduction to preparing and managing a film festival.*

**Saturday 17th October 2020 (10am – 2pm): “What’s Your Story”**

By challenging and encouraging the young people to identify what they believe to be their ‘North Star’, this module will help participants to:

* develop an inspiring and compelling dream board;
* plan a future that is exciting, challenging, and ambitious, and identify and map out their career aspirations.

The young people will be supported and encouraged to channel their energy and efforts to create an exciting future by working collectively and individually with facilitators from corporate training firm Achievers Consultancy.

**Outcomes of the month include:**

* the recording of a piece to camera, to be used in the final showcase event, where the young people will map out their ambitions as well as what they hope to achieve on completion of the programme;
* learning through workshops on how to identify contacts, key influencers and treating networking as a concept and a skill;
* there will also be an opportunity for young people to volunteer on the Cinemagic Film and Television Festival.

**Saturday 14th November 2020 (10am – 2pm): “Employability - Igniting your flame and realising your potential”**

A practical workshop, taken by key HR professionals from Belfast City Airport and other industry experts, this session will aim to:

* develop key employability skills such as writing a CV, completing a professional and well thought through application form, excelling at assessment centres, and developing excellent interview skills.

Skills developed throughout the month will include:

* making the right impression first time;
* the importance of good grooming/personal appearance, interview etiquette and developing effective and impactful communication skills;
* event management, PR, administration, box office, masterclasses, guest co-ordination and public speaking.

**Saturday 12th December 2020: “Looking after your Physical well-being” taking place at the SSE Arena, 2 Queens Quay, Belfast, BT3 9QQ.**

Session with Belfast Giants - The session will finish with a social outing to a Belfast Giants game and taking the entire group for pizza.

Throughout this highly interactive session participants will learn the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise and how this can improve overall mental and physical health and wellbeing.

**Saturday 23rd January 2021 (10am 2pm): `Mind Yourself’**

Sessions during this month will run in collaboration with the mental health charity “Inspire” with the aim of:

* Building emotional resilience, a life skill for the future.
* Highlighting the importance of physical and mental well-being;
* Challenging the stigma around mental health issues and building a supportive and collaborative network.

There may also be the opportunity to invite along an inspirational guest speaker or well-known public figure to share their story of hope and opportunity following a period of challenging mental health.

* how body image and other factors impact mental health;
* how to develop mental resilience, a core life skill;
* how to help and encourage positive attitudes amongst their peers at their schools, homes and communities.

**Saturday 27th February 2021 (10am – 2pm): “Common Purpose in your Community”**

This module will consider our city of Belfast as a classroom by looking at:

* key decision makers in our society;
* hearing real-life stories and challenges faced by leaders in cross community initiatives.

A number of inspirational guest speakers, such as Belfast City Airport Chief Executive Brian Ambrose, political party representatives and community leaders, will be invited to talk to the young people about their career and life journey.

Participants will also have the opportunity to engage with other Cinemagic projects taking place across the community and work with other young people and outreach groups in cross community initiatives.

The month will provide an understanding of:

* the real-life challenges faced by communities and leaders from a wide range of sectors;
* the opportunities available to volunteer and become actively involved in their community.

**Saturday 20th March 2021 (10am -2pm): “Focus on Ambitions”**

At the end of the programme each participant will revisit their dream board and assessment and reflect on their learning throughout the programme.

They will be given one-to-one feedback on their contributions and achievements and will revisit their career map and new network of contacts and key influencers before being presented with the opportunity to attend a work placement in an area of their choice.

Following the completion of the programme, each young person will have a portfolio of key achievements including:

* certificates;
* feedback appraisals;
* personal references to aid future employment opportunities.

**April 2021: Best Foot Forward – Stepping into the World of Work**

A bespoke work experience placement opportunity for participants in a career field of their choice.

**June 2021: Time to shine in LA**

A group of participants will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to fly to the US with Cinemagic and take part in a 7-day programme in LA.

The trip will include:

* a visit to Warner Brothers Studios, Fox Studios, HBO;
* an intense week of industry masterclasses, workshops and events culminating in the preparation and delivery of presentations to industry professionals;
* the opportunity to meet with other inner-city young people who will share their journey and challenges;
* the opportunity to participate in a VIP Gala showcase event in the Fairmont Hotel, Santa Monica;
* the chance to connect and make what we hope to be friendships and partnerships that last a lifetime.

**September 2021: Graduation and Celebration Event**

Northern Ireland Graduation event.

**NLP Diploma**

Each participant will be offered the opportunity to complete an NLP Diploma in Personal and Career Development. This will provide the perfect platform for the young people to:

* gain a greater understanding of explaining how their minds work;
* understand how their unconscious values affect their focus and results;
* learn how to build rapport and connect with others, skills that will sustain and benefit them through the early stage of building their careers and creating the life they wish to live.

**Evaluation**

One year on from the completion of the programme, an evaluation will be carried out across the group of graduates on their successes, achievements and learnings. This will then be used to make the following programme even more impactful for the next cohort of young people.

Graduates will also be invited to participate in the following year’s programme, providing support, guidance and mentoring to the new cohort of young people.

**Should you have any queries regarding the programme please contact either Paula Bittles or Stephen Patton;**

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