

## Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) *Maths & Science Initiative*

The Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) are a key part of Trinity's social mission. TAP aims to increase participation in education by students from non-traditional backgrounds, to address educational disadvantage and to create a university campus that mirrors the diverse composition of Irish society.

Since 1993, TAP has worked in partnership across the education sector and with families, communities and businesses to widen educational access through a range of innovative, targeted educational programmes. TAP provides a continuum of support to primary, second-level, young adult and mature students, enabling them to overcome barriers and fulfil their educational potential.

### The TAP Maths & Science Initiative

Low achievement levels in maths and science subjects is now recognised as one of the most significant challenges for the Irish education system and for Ireland's future economic development. This trend disproportionately affects disadvantaged schools and creates further barriers for their students to accessing third-level courses.

The TAP **Maths & Science Initiative** is designed to enhance continuity and achievement levels in maths and science subjects among school students in TAP's 20 primary and 20 second-level linked disadvantaged schools.

The **Maths & Science Initiative** begins in 6<sup>th</sup> class and finishes in 6<sup>th</sup> year and includes annual workshops, demonstrations and seminars which compliment and support learning within the maths, science and technology curriculum. While the students are in primary school, the focus of the project is on building enthusiasm and interest for maths and science and raising aspirations in relation to third-level study. Second-level activities encourage and support students to take higher-level maths and science, to make informed career choices and to improve their achievement levels in maths and science subjects.



*"It doesn't matter who you are, where you're from, what your parents do or the colour of your skin, all that counts when studying Science is your ability."*

**Professor Luke O'Neill, TCD, Boyle Medal for Scientific Excellence – at the launch of the initiative**

### ***The initiative has five key components:***

#### **Maths and Science Exploration Project**

Four hundred students participate in exciting and interactive labs and demonstrations delivered by TCD lecturers from the Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science.

#### **Maths and Science Scholars Project**

This programme engages with students beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> class and culminating in 6<sup>th</sup> year to include annual workshops, demonstrations and seminars which compliment and support learning within the maths, science and technology curriculum.

#### **Support for Schools**

TAP provides our twenty primary schools with resources to enhance maths and science teaching and learning programmes.

#### **Parent Programme**

A series of guidance seminars, focusing on ways in which parents can nurture their children's academic abilities and help them to succeed in an academic environment.

#### **Research & Evaluation**

The initiative has been designed with a 10 year timeframe to allow for tracking of student achievement levels in maths and science subject areas and to monitor the numbers of students progressing to university.

## Support for TAP

TAP's mission has been strongly supported by a range of businesses, individuals and Trinity Alumni groups. We are extremely grateful for this invaluable support which has ensured that a transformative educational experience is available to people of all ages from disadvantaged areas of Dublin – one which will impact on their own families and communities for generations to come.

In addition to State funding, TAP endeavours to secure at least one third of the cost of all programmes from private philanthropic or corporate sources. This support has allowed TAP to continue to learn, grow and innovate. We are keen to ensure this support is sustained through these challenging times so that we can continue to offer hope and opportunity to those most at risk from adverse economic circumstances.



### Why support the Trinity Access Programmes?

Support for TAP helps change lives, transform communities and is in a very real way an investment in Ireland's future. To sustain this pioneering work, TAP is seeking the imaginative support of partners in social responsibility. By supporting TAP you will be helping to:

- Create opportunities and eliminate barriers for bright students from under-represented backgrounds
- Prepare the role models and leaders of the future in their schools and communities
- Change negative expectations and make a real difference in communities affected by disadvantage
- Effect positive change in the Irish education system
- Make a direct and lasting impact on thousands of lives.

*"I like maths and science and I would like to learn more about these subjects as in primary school we don't do too much maths and science. I would like to see Trinity College because I would like to go there when I get older."*

*"I think this project would be interesting because I like to keep my brain active by figuring out answers."*

*"I think that I would really like this project, and that if I went on it I could go on to college and it would be much easier for me to finish school with good results."*

### Student applicants to the Maths and Science Scholars Programme

*"I enjoyed the maths workshop the most. It was so much fun. The Professor explained everything so well... I understood it much more."*

*"My job is to make sure homework is done and to support her in every way possible. It's about helping make the best choices for her future."*

### A student & parent in the Maths and Science Scholars Programme

**If you are interested in finding out more about TAP, or would like information on how to get involved as a supporter, please contact:**

---

Cliona Hannon, Director, TAP  
T: 353 1 896 2752  
E: [channon@tcd.ie](mailto:channon@tcd.ie)  
W: [www.tcd.ie/Trinity\\_Access](http://www.tcd.ie/Trinity_Access)

Eileen Punch, Associate Director, Trinity Foundation  
T: 353 1 896 1714  
E: [eileen.punch@tcd.ie](mailto:eileen.punch@tcd.ie)  
W: [www.tcd.ie/trinityfoundation](http://www.tcd.ie/trinityfoundation)