



*presents*



# What is D+ in the Classroom?

Diversity+ in the classroom aims to raise awareness about the legal profession being open to all. We are here to bridge the gap of knowledge and experience which often prevents true inclusivity.

Many of us don't have lawyers in the family. Some of us will be the first in our families to go to university. This results in us having a lack of opportunities that can come easy to others.

**We are here to change that.** We provide pupils with relatable insights and role models, those like them who have recently been on a journey that they too can aspire to follow, but with the added confidence of having the know-how to get them started.

# How do we make change?

We **tailor learning sessions** and materials to your school, pupils, and teacher's individual needs.

We signpost pupils to resources and **practical experiences** across the sector whether academic or professional.

We aim to ensure that teachers can be better prepared to **advise and assist** any pupils who are interested in pursuing law, and that teachers can redirect their pupils to further resources and opportunities.

We also prepare and deliver **learning sessions** for teachers and pupils alike, to help break down barriers and myths. We are here to reassure and encourage young people that the law is more open to them than they might imagine, and that they can achieve their dream.

# Why have we created it?

From our own lived experience we know, that for many pupils from 'less-advantaged' backgrounds the possibility of pursuing a career in law can seem **out of reach**. We want to find ways to equip pupils with the knowledge and relatable insights they need early on so they can make an informed decision about their future studies and potential career choice.

The legal profession is more diverse than it was in the past, and there are increasingly more conversations taking place around the diversity of backgrounds of those working in the law. Additionally, there is a lot of work ongoing to scrutinise the makeup of the legal professional, and initiatives in place to address under-representation. Diversity+, works in collaboration with legal organisations and law firms to **bring learning and opportunities closer to you**.

Diversifying the legal profession needs us all to take action right at the start, and it involves everyone, at every level of the profession to be working together. Widening access to the legal profession cannot be achieved by recruiting law students if diverse talent did not make it to law school in the first place.

It is widely accepted that pursuing law is a big commitment, and we are here to reassure pupils and teachers that there are resources and people out there who are working to level the playing field.

**You do not have to do this alone.**



# How can we help you?

We plan what you need with you, to ensure you get the best outcome.

**Stage 1:** Meeting with school representatives to discuss needs

**Stage 2:** Outline of works created and agreed

**Stage 3:** Material and learning session package prepared

**Stage 4:** Material and learning sessions delivered

## **Example 1:**

**Who?** Main School in High Street: 30 pupils interested in studying law.

**How we help:** Meeting with school representatives at which it is agreed that we deliver a one-hour knowledge exploring session for all 30 pupils providing an overview of studying law from relatable role models via storytelling, accompanied by an information sheet with details of how to apply.

## **Example 2:**

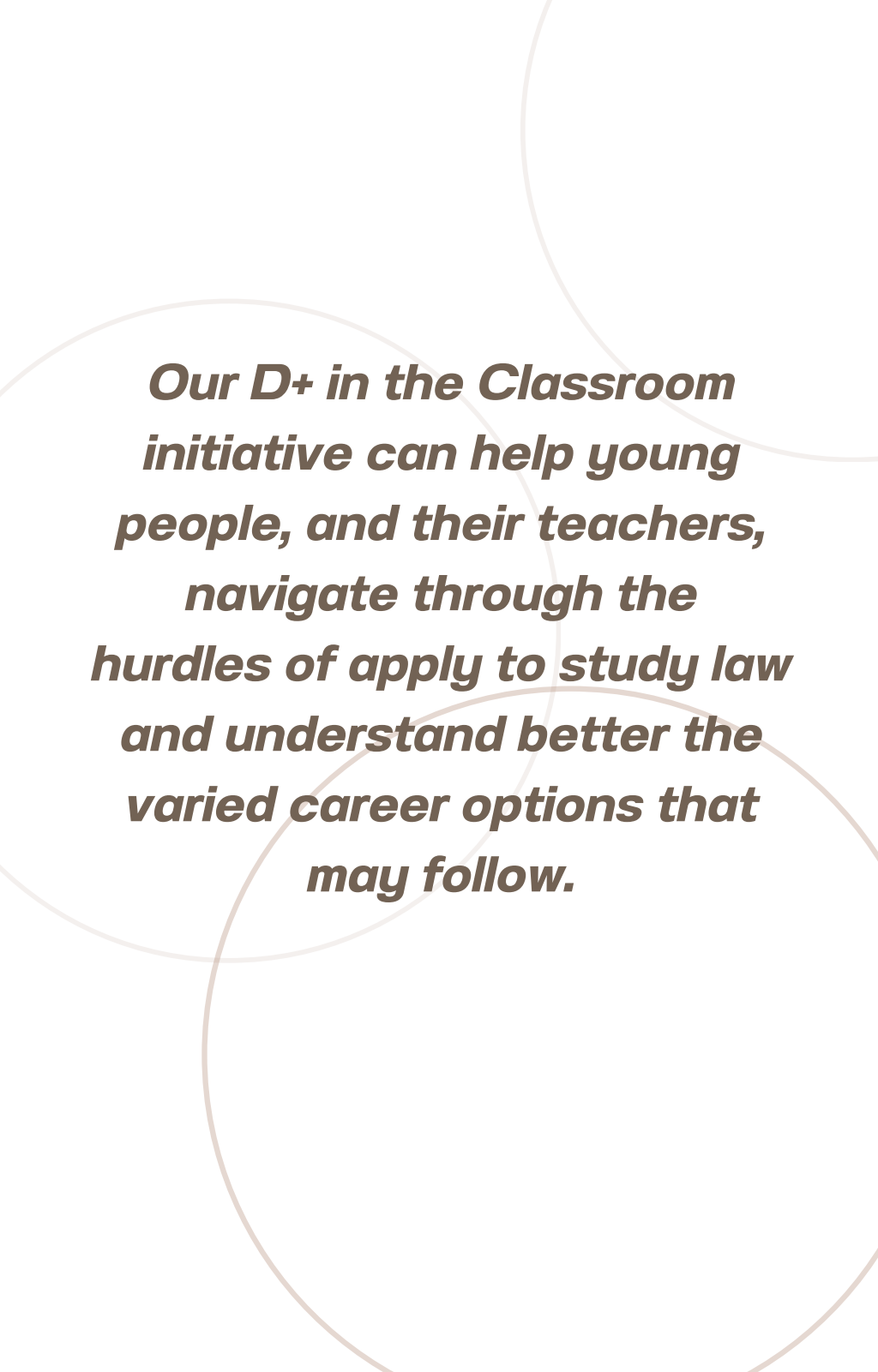
**Who?** Central High in Park Avenue: 10 pupils from modern studies class interested in what a career in law may look like.

**How we help:** Meeting with school representatives at which agreed to have a one-hour question and answer session with solicitors of varying experience and specialisation with the opportunity to spending a day shadowing a solicitor in their workplace.

# Benefits for teachers and pupils

- Bespoke learning packages created to meet your needs
- Relatable storytelling and role models
- Help with navigating the difficult questions and demystify a career in law
- Supporting those who feel unsupported and under-represented
- Building confidence by removing the unknown and unattainable
- Tailor made materials and learning sessions aimed to give you real insights from real people, like you.





***Our D+ in the Classroom initiative can help young people, and their teachers, navigate through the hurdles of apply to study law and understand better the varied career options that may follow.***

# Why is D+ in the Classroom important to us?

## **Ariuna**

*LLB Law student at  
Edinburgh University*



I was one of very few in recent years from my school to go on to study an LLB Law degree, so a pathway into law was not something teachers were familiarising themselves with year on year.

Many schools like mine have pupils applying to university, college and work all at once therefore it can be challenging for teachers to manage each individual application - Diversity+ is here to help make support aspiring solicitors in this process.

In terms of getting a professional insight, there is plenty available for pupils who may need access to the profession but there is a wider target audience out there for firms that isn't being reached. D+ in the Classroom is here to bridge that gap. These placements are usually aimed at those in S5 so it is crucial that pupils are aware of this by S4 and our project aims to make sure they are well prepared for these opportunities!

“There is plenty available for pupils who may need access to the profession but there is a wider target audience out there for firms that isn't being reached. D+ in the Classroom is here to bridge that gap.”

## **James**

*LLB Law Graduate, Diploma in Professional Practice Student at the University of Strathclyde, and Future Trainee Solicitor at international law firm*



Although a law degree might sound like a great thing to pupils making their UCAS choices, it may come as a surprise to them just quite how much beyond their studies that is needed to make a career for yourself in the legal sector.

In my own personal experience, it can be quite daunting to get halfway through your undergraduate studies before realising that you are miles behind your peers in terms of employability.

It is my hope that our work in this initiative will ensure that a greater number of people, particularly from underrepresented backgrounds, have a better start to their legal studies and are more aware of how to kickstart their legal career.

I personally made use of some social mobility schemes and know that without their help I would not find myself in the fortunate position I am in; about to leave university and begin working for a top international law firm. I had a helping hand and now hope to be able to help others achieve their full potential, without being hampered by their lack of insight or understanding of the legal sector that some of their future peers will benefit from.

Improving the diversity of the Scottish legal sector requires some attention to be paid at a foundational level, before young people even begin their legal studies at university. This is why I am so excited to get involved with this programme and make a real difference!

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## **Nidah**

*Business Management with  
HRM Graduate*



Choosing what you want to study at university can be difficult. It's a decision that forces you to look into the future and figure out the kind of career you'd like to have. The tricky part? We're expected to make this choice at quite a young age. That's where Diversity+ in the classroom comes in.

Our mission is to help the younger generation get a better understanding of the legal profession and make this process a whole lot easier for them compared to past generations.

Speaking from my own experience, the topic of law was hardly on our school's radar, and no one in my year even considered it as a university major. If we had known more about it and had access to information, things might have turned out differently.

The truth is, if you don't have any personal connections to the legal field or know friends studying law, it might not even cross your mind as a career choice.

There are alternative routes that can be taken with a law degree. It's common for people to assume that there's only one fixed route to follow, often due to a lack of awareness about alternative options. Many individuals may feel obliged to pursue the traditional or "normal" path because they haven't been exposed to other possibilities. It's crucial to realise that a degree can open doors to a wide array of career opportunities.

Diversity+ is dedicated to enhancing diversity within the legal sector, and one way we plan to accomplish this is by educating the younger generation about the legal profession through our program, Diversity+ in the classroom.

“The truth is, if you don't have any personal connections to the legal field or know friends studying law, it might not even cross your mind as a career choice.”

## **Anmol**

*LLB Student at Glasgow  
University*



Exposing students to the possibilities within the legal career path at an early stage is a necessity and highly beneficial for those who are exploring their future options however this opportunity is not available in many schools.

Based on my personal experience, I found that my school lacked the resources to sufficiently prepare me for a legal career as there was a significant gap in information regarding the nature of the legal profession and the essential skills required to succeed in this field.

Likewise, I believe there are many students who are finding themselves in a similar situation.



Hence, I hope that the implementation of this new initiative, aimed to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds by introducing tailored made sessions fit for student demands will allow them to feel confident in their choice of pursuing law and will prove to be of great assistance for them to achieve their full potential!

“Exposing students to the possibilities within the legal career path at an early stage is a necessity”

# Ready to get involved?

Get in touch with Diversity+ today:

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Thank you for your  
ongoing support.