The Lord Mayor of the City of London

What is the role of Birkbeck in the capital?

By providing opportunities to study for students from diverse social and educational backgrounds, Birkbeck offers an inclusive and challenging environment for those wanting to learn and acquire new skills. In fact, I am particularly keen on Birkbeck since your Master. Professor David Latchman CB, advises the City of London Corporation on the fantastic Mansion House Scholarship scheme, which supports overseas students studying at British universities.

Given your distinguished career at Kleinwort Benson and your chairmanship of prominent financial organisations, including the London Investment Banking Association, what advice would you give to students planning to establish careers in the City?

My advice would be to throw yourself into whatever area of work you have an interest in, meet as many new people as possible and bring an infectious enthusiasm with you every day. Those attributes, combined with hard work and dedication, will mean students see first-hand how the City offers up so many possibilities and opportunities.

Could you please summarise the role of the Lord Mayor?

My role is to act as an ambassador for the City and promote it as the leading financial district but the whole of the Square Mile, but the whole of UK and the world's leading financial district. My role is to act as an ambassador for the City and promote it as the leading financial district and also explained his role as “salesman of the City”.

What is your favourite aspect of the Lord Mayor’s show?

The show has often been described as the oldest street party in the world and being able to soak up the atmosphere and lead what is a real spectacle is a real privilege. However, the highlights of the year is that I am incredibly proud of is how the whole day comes together through the hard work and enthusiasm of the 7,000 volunteers who help make the day special. They are the true stars of the show and the ones who make it the success that it is.

From our first Pop-Up University to discounts for trade unionists, Birkbeck is inspiring communities to learn about London’s housing crisis (led by Dr David Tins), and talks referring to local residents and it is helping to transform futures. We have also learnt a great deal about how to target hard-to-reach groups, which can be challenging.

Working with the trade unions

The year 2014 was also significant for our work because it saw the renewal of a three-year agreement between Birkbeck and the trade unions.

As part of the agreement, Birkbeck and the unions – the learning and skills organisation of the TUC – are working together to champion higher education. The inclusion of a 5% discount on tuition fees for trade unionists studying for new qualifications. Discounts worth nearly £400,000 have been claimed over the last three years.