

Is your school congested at the gates? Are you concerned about the poor air quality around your school and the health and well-being of your pupils and staff?

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is offering secondary schools the opportunity to take part in the **Youth Travel Ambassador (YTA) Programme** for the 2024/2025 academic year, commencing in September. This programme empowers students with the skills and confidence to address transport issues affecting their school community. It aims to increase walking and cycling to school, and therefore improve congestion and air quality, as well as the health and well-being of students and staff. In previous years, schools have recorded a 6% increase in walking rates, 12% increase in park & stride use, and a 7% reduction in cars use, as well as observing an increase in the number of students regularly cycling to school.

The programme has been successfully delivered in Greater Manchester over the last 3 years. We are very excited to be able to invite your school to be part next academic year alongside the 23 schools in Greater Manchester who have previously taken part. Please find below some indication of what is involved, and what can be expected from the project. You can find further information in the flyer attached.

What we will provide:

- Delivery of 6 sessions and a launch assembly by the YTA Coordinator - all resources provided, and sessions adapted to the school's needs.
- Delivery of 2 interschool events (free to attend) – a “Dragon’s Den” style pitch event and an end of programme celebration event. Follow the links to read a news article and LinkedIn post on a previous year’s pitch events.
 - [Dame Sarah Storey on LinkedIn: Recently I attended the GM Youth Travel Ambassador conference hosted by...](#)
 - [High school students pitch their ideas to boost cycling, walking and wheeling at their schools \(tfgm.com\)](#)
- Up to **£500** funding to launch and deliver the campaign.
- Ongoing support for the ambassadors and School Coordinator via email and telephone throughout the programme.
- Links to Local Authority and active travel organisations that could benefit your school during and beyond the programme.

What we require from participating schools:

- Appointment of School Coordinator. Their role will be to:
 - Liaise with YTA Coordinator throughout programme.
 - Support ambassadors in gathering their research, preparing for their pitch, and planning and launching their campaign.
 - Deliver a minimum of 3 supporting sessions (resources provided for this).
- Appointment of between 8-12 Youth Travel Ambassadors (YTAs).
- Allocate time to deliver the programme (during lessons, after school, drop-down days).
- Register on Modeshift STARS ([Modeshift STARS - Travel Plan in Education, Business & Communities](#)) and work towards National STARS Accreditation (support with this provided throughout).

Your school has been identified as one which is likely to benefit from taking part. We would therefore like to invite you/an appropriate contact within your school, to express an interest in participating by answering the questions in the application form attached. Please return the completed form to active.travel@tfgm.com by **Friday 19th July**. Upon receipt of your application, a meeting will be arranged with the YTA coordinator to discuss the programme in more detail.

We look forward to hearing from you!