Good Practice #5 – School of Code Bootcamp

Organisation in charge of the good practice	
Is your organisation the main institution in charge of this good practice?	*No*

Location of the organisation in charge:	Country	*United Kingdom*
	Region	*West Midlands*
	City	*Birmingham*
Main institution in charge:	*School of Code Ltd*	

Good practice general information		
Geographical scope of the practice:	*National*	
Location of the practice	Country	*UK*
	Region	*West Midlands*
	City	*Birmingham*

Practice image:	
Title of practice:	*[23/100 characters]* School of Code Bootcamp

Good practice detailed information	
Short summary of the practice:	*[135/160 characters]* School of Code offers a free coding course that is open to applicants of all backgrounds to give everyone a route into the tech sector.

Detailed information on the practice:	*[1498/1000-1500 characters]* School of Code was started by Chris Meah whilst studying for his PhD in Computer Science. He believes technology is a golden opportunity to make the world a more equal, fairer place for everyone, but noticed a distinct lack of diversity in those who were venturing on their journey to become coders. Chris set out to solve this problem by creating School of Code. The school offers a free 16-week coding course based in Birmingham (a Bootcamp) open to applicants of all backgrounds – they don't need to have any previous technical experience, or any qualifications. With rising automation, the job landscape is changing dramatically – School of Code aims to prepare people with tech skills and soft skills to become collaborative, creative coders. The application process includes creating a pixel avatar while learning the basics of HTML, CSS and JavaScript; recording a short video answering a few questions and watching the first lecture of Harvard's free online introduction into computer science & making a program using Scratch. By the end of the course, the students will have learned the fundamentals of programming, learned how to work in a high-performance tech team, and they will be specialised in full-stack JavaScript development, using Node.js for back-end and React for front-end. The school is partnered with recruitment experts to give the students the best chance of starting a tech career (e.g. helping them shape their CV & prepare for interviews, connecting them with employers).
Resources needed:	*[276/200-300 characters]* The Bootcamps are offered free of charge for the students – the costs are covered by sponsors (like the West Midlands Combined Authority), including School of Code employer partners who gain priority/early access to the developing talent pool for their financial contribution.
Timescale (start/end date):	2017-ongoing
Evidence of success (results achieved):	*[442/300-500 characters]* School of Code achieved an average of 85% employment from their previous cohorts into tech across all of their bootcamps so far, including during the COVID-19 pandemic (now offering fully remote and blended courses). They have trained over 200 people and are looking to transform the lives of another 192 across the country before April 2022. But, more important than stats, they've helped people completely change their lives for the better.
Challenges encountered:	*[162/300 characters]* - Working with young people from deprived and disadvantaged communities - Employment readiness of marginalised groups - Addressing issues of diversity and equality
Potential for learning or transfer:	*[303/500-1000 characters]* School of Code emphasizes the use and importance of coding and related skills of the future, provides practical learning on how to code and its applications, develops the employability skills of marginalised groups, addresses issues of equality and diversity in the sector and offers career development.
Further information:	*Link to where further information on the good practice can be found* https://www.schoolofcode.co.uk/
Keywords:	*Select from existing keywords* (something similar to *training*)