Outreach and Widening Participation

Outreach Evaluation Report 2014-15

Report produced by Stephane Farenga, Research and Evaluation Officer
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Who are we?

The University of Hertfordshire's (UH) Outreach and Widening Participation department delivers a suite of Outreach initiatives that primarily benefit secondary schools at KS3, KS4 and KS5 levels across Hertfordshire. This provision aims to impact participants across three strands:

- **Aspirations** – increasing aspiration and awareness of higher education (HE) and what a degree can offer
- **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)** – providing valuable IAG that allows potential HE applicants to make informed decisions about their HE participation and supports them on their transitional journey into HE
- **Attainment** – closing the attainment gap of the most disadvantaged learners and developing participants’ confidence, in order to make them more successful at school and in HE

The Outreach team for the 2014/15 academic year consisted of the following team members:

*Department of Outreach & Widening Participation*

*Outreach Team*

- **Dr Emma Greening**
  - Head of Department
- **Lindsey Rigby**
  - Outreach Manager
- **Stephane Farenga**
  - Research and Evaluation Officer
- **Teresa Tinworth**
  - Administrator
- **Cobi Campbell**
  - Outreach Officer
- **Emily Ashton**
  - Outreach Officer
- **Zahra Carnochan**
  - Outreach Officer
- **Gill Knibbs**
  - Mentoring Officer

*Outreach Ambassadors*
2014/15 at a glance

The 32 schools comprise:

- 23 Beacon Schools (defined as schools with a low progression to HE)
- 9 Partnership Schools, including two local University Technical Colleges (UTC)

We are especially proud of having also supported over 20 Children in Care (CiC) students, which are a particularly hard-to-reach and vulnerable group, with an extremely low progression rate to higher education.

As a department, we also worked hard to broker deeper and more meaningful relationships with key partners, as well as with schools who had lower levels of engagement with us over the last few years.

We are therefore delighted to have made strides with the University of Cambridge and the Central School of Speech and Drama, both whom helped deliver our CiC Summer School on their sites.

The events delivered this year are split along the following categories:
### Key Stage | In-school activity | One-day campus events | Multi-day campus events
---|---|---|---
KS3 / KS4 | • Talks, workshops & mentoring | • Pathfinder Days | • Autumn School  
 | | | • Summer Schools
KS5 | • Talks, workshops & mentoring | • Student Shadowing Days  
 | | | • Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)  
 | | | • Spring School  
 | | | • Summer Schools

The rest of this report consists of individual evaluations of these events:

- In-school talks & workshops  
- CiC Summer School  
- Year 10 Beacon Summer School  
- Year 12 Summer School  
- Student Shadowing Days  
- Pathfinder Days  
- Autumn and Spring Schools

We use a mixed methods approach to evaluating events, based on questionnaires and discussion with students and teachers, producing a range of qualitative and quantitative data.
A closer look at… In-School talks & workshops

128 talks delivered to...

25 schools...

and over 6250 young people and their families

22 schools had at least three talks or workshops.

**Sessions, aims and outcomes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KS3 &amp; KS4</td>
<td>• Why Go to University?</td>
<td>• Aspiration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Goal Setting</td>
<td>• Closing the gap</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Study Skills</td>
<td>• IAG</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• English Level Up</td>
<td>• Aspiration</td>
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<td>• Attainment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• IAG</td>
<td>• Closing the gap</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Choosing Your University and Course</td>
<td>• Aspiration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• UCAS applications and personal statements</td>
<td>• Closing the gap</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Student Finance</td>
<td>• IAG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Interview Skills</td>
<td>• Aspiration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Learning Skills for University</td>
<td>• Closing the gap</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Student Life</td>
<td>• IAG</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Independent Living</td>
<td>• Aspiration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• UCAS Extra and Clearing</td>
<td>• Closing the gap</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>• IAG</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What the teachers say:

89% say the session met their students' needs

100% say UH speakers effectively communicated key messages

78% say our sessions will lead to more conversations about HE amongst students & school staff

78% say our sessions will have a HIGH impact on their students

67% say their students will be more motivated as a result of our sessions

"It was a perfect session to set the scene for UCAS and certainly made the students start to focus on their futures." - Cheshunt School

"The students were all very engaged and you were able to respond to all of their questions." "Should help them to aspire to achieve beyond school."

Sele School

"Mind maps were started and students really engaged in trying to think of their skills and relevant experience"

Cheshunt School

"Think it will give students the nudge they need to finish off applications"

St Mary's C of E School
A closer look at... Autumn School

The aim of Autumn School is to increase students’ confidence levels and provide them with the skills they need to achieve a C on their chosen GCSE subject. By bringing them on-campus and having them use University facilities, as well as engage with student ambassadors, we also hope to raise their aspirations with regard to higher education.

Participating schools:
- Adeyfield School
- Astley Cooper School
- Bushey Academy
- Cheshunt School
- Francis Combe Academy
- Kings Langley School

Sessions
1. Intense Maths & English workshops
2. Game-orientated sessions
3. Campus tour & social breaks

Aims
1. To boost skill levels to GCSE C grade
2. To foster independent learning
3. To inspire pupils to aim for university

Outcomes
1. Increase in confidence
2. Ability to work independently
3. Improved subject knowledge & skills
4. Aspirations to attend university
82% more confident in achieving a C grade in Maths/English

"I really enjoyed this course. It has changed me [...] and has made me more confident."  
*Autumn School English participant*

88% more motivated to get least a C grade in Maths/English

"I'm going to maintain the motivation they have provided"  
*Autumn School Maths participant*

92% have the necessary skills to improve their grades

"I am going to use the techniques I've learnt to plan my writing in the future"  
*Autumn School English participant*

"I am going to plan my work with the GAP SPLITT plan"  
*Autumn School English participant*

88% know how to go about improving their skills

"[I will] keep revising off my notes and sheets given and use methods they have taught me"  
*Autumn School Maths participant*

"By using these skills and applying [them] to some past example papers"  
*Autumn School English participant*
Where are students likely to be headed once they finish school...

- University: 56%
- Other Education: 25%
- Don't know: 19%

100% agree their practitioner was engaging

96% agree their practitioner explained ideas & concepts clearly

83% agree practitioners explained what was needed to get a C grade

96% agree staff & ambassadors helped during sessions

96% agree staff & ambassadors were welcoming

"I enjoyed our teacher. I never knew work was so fun." Autumn School English participant

96% satisfaction rating

"Amazing! What a good university!" Autumn School English participant

"It was such an experience" Autumn School Maths participant
A closer look at... Spring School

The aim of **Spring School** is to increase the confidence of Year 12 students who have so far not achieved a ‘C’ grade on their English or Maths GCSE and provide them with the skills they need to achieve a ‘C’ on their chosen GCSE subject. By bringing them on-campus and having them use University facilities, as well as engage with student ambassadors, we also hope to raise their aspirations with regard to higher education.

**Participating schools:**
- Adeyfield School
- Barclay School
- Bushey Academy
- Francis Combe Academy
- Hertswood Academy
- Kings Langley School
- Samuel Ryder Academy
- St Marys CE High School

**Sessions**
1. Intense Maths & English workshops
2. Game-orientated sessions
3. Campus tour & social breaks

**Aims**
1. To boost skill levels to GCSE C grade
2. To foster independent learning
3. To inspire pupils to aim for university

**Outcomes**
1. Increase in confidence
2. Ability to work independently
3. Improved subject knowledge & skills
4. Aspirations to attend university
64% more confident in achieving a C grade in Maths/English

"I will take [my notes] back to my teacher and show what I have learnt"
Spring School Maths participant

100% more motivated to get least a C grade in Maths/English

"Seeing the university has motivated me to work hard and get good grades"
Spring School Maths participant

80% have the necessary skills to improve their grades

"[I will] practise what I have learnt with exam papers leading up to my exam"
Spring School English participant

96% know how to go about improving their skills

"I am going to revise weekly using the new skills I have learnt"
Spring School Maths participant

"Do 45mins of revision everyday and revise in a way that I’m going to remember my key notes"
Spring School Maths participant
Where are students likely to be headed once they finish school...

- 79% University
- 11% Other Education
- 5% Don't know
- 5% Other (incl. FT work)

100% agree their practitioner was engaging

- 100% agree their practitioner explained ideas & concepts clearly
- 100% agree practitioners explained what was needed to get a C grade
- 100% agree staff & ambassadors were welcoming
- 100% agree staff & ambassadors helped during sessions

100% satisfaction rating

"I [benefitted] from all areas in order to improve my skills" *Spring School Maths participant*

"Meeting new people and learning new methods to apply to maths" *Spring School Maths participant*
A closer look at… Pathfinder Days

Pathfinder Days bring Year 9 students onto the UH campus for a day of discovery. They participate in a range of activities aimed at exposing them to the variety of university subjects, to what life is like around campus, to the benefits of a higher education degree and to the financial commitments students must make. Participants are encouraged to think about the paths they might take into higher education.

Participating schools:
- Adeyfield School
- Astley Cooper School
- Barnwell
- Fearnhill School
- Francis Combe Academy
- Kings Langley
- Marriotts School
- Nobel School
- Onslow St Audrey’s School
- Parmiter’s School
- Priory School
- Sir Frederic Osborne School
- St Marys CE High School
- Thomas Alleyne Academy

Sessions
1. Taster lectures, introductions to courses & campus tours
2. Benefits of HE & student finance
3. Group-based games & presentations

Aims
1. To provide an insight into what university can offer academically
2. To inspire pupils to aim for HE
3. To inform pupils on various aspects of HE

Outcomes
1. Boost in aspirations
2. Increase in knowledge about academic courses & student life
3. Awareness of HE benefits and student finance
# Activities students love...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus tours</th>
<th>Final presentations</th>
<th>Taster lectures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;A real understanding of uni life from the perspective of a student&quot; <em>Thomas Alleyne pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;It gave me a chance to show my creative skills&quot; <em>Astley Cooper pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;It gave a clear example of how you would have to think and adapt to this new way of studying&quot; <em>Onslow pupil</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I loved seeing what a uni is actually like&quot; <em>Adeyfield pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;An opportunity to work collaboratively&quot; <em>Barnwell pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;It got me thinking and had me interested&quot; <em>Marriotts pupil</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Because I've never been to a university before&quot; <em>Priory pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;Everyone had a chance to shine&quot; <em>Frederic Osborne pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;Gave us an opportunity to see what the classes were like&quot; <em>Barnwell pupil</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;We got to show off what we learned&quot; <em>Thomas Alleyne pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;We got to show off what we learned&quot; <em>Barnwell pupil</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Busting myths and boosting aspirations...

| "It reassured me about the financial aspect of uni" *Astley Cooper pupil* | "To get a better job and pursue my dreams" *Nobel pupil* |
| "It isn’t as scary and daunting as I thought it was" *Barnwell pupil* | "I would like a degree so I can have a choice of what I want to do in life" *Parmiter's pupil* |
| "I think it might give me a better chance in life" *Marriotts pupil* | |
86% discovered new courses they knew little or nothing about before the event

"I learned so much about the courses and paths I can take" Thomas Alleyne pupil

90% benefitted from seeing what student life is like

"It gave us an actual insight into what living at uni would be like" Kings Langley pupil

68% found out key information about accessing HE

"I found out everything I need to know to help me [get in] to university" Nobel pupil

"I know what I have to do to get in to uni and what it’s like living there" Barnwell pupil

65% started thinking about a future career

"To get into a career that is right for me […] and enjoy what I study" Kings Langley pupil

"I would love to study the subject I am passionate about and uni will […] allow me to pursue the career [I want]" Onslow pupil
What routes are participants likely to follow after school?

95% of participants were satisfied with the delivery of sessions

- University
- Don't know
- Other (incl. apprenticeships, colleges & FT employment)

94% were satisfied with the way staff & ambassadors helped during activities

93% agree ambassadors were knowledgeable about courses and student life

95.5% usefulness rating

96% satisfaction rating

"The [ambassadors] were very helpful in answering your questions, showing you around and also helping you [experience] what it’s like at uni”

Astley Cooper pupil

"I want to go to uni so I can learn how to be independent and get a good job” St Mary’s pupil

"I always thought that universities were big and scary and very expensive. However, it isn’t scary [...] and it is financially manageable”

Francis Combe pupil

"My parents did not go to uni and I don’t have older siblings so I have no one to talk to uni about"

Fearnhill pupil

"It has made me change my mind about uni because I didn’t think it was that important [before today]"

Onslow pupil

"It was fun and informative and confirmed that I want to come to uni"

Kings Langley pupil

"It was just amazing"

Adeyfield pupil

"I learned new facts and found the right university for [my] future"

Astley Cooper pupil

"I feel privileged to have been on this trip"

St Mary’s pupil
A closer look at... Student Shadowing

**Student Shadowing** days offer Year 12 and 13 students from local Hertfordshire secondary schools the opportunity to come onto the UH campus and experience life as a typical student. Participants ‘shadow’, i.e. follow, a UH student ambassador for a day. They attend lectures and accompany the ambassador across campus. Several participants are grouped with an ambassador, usually based on participants’ subject interests.

**Participating schools:**
- Barclay School
- Barnwell
- Bushey Academy
- Francis Combe Academy
- Hertswood Academy
- Nobel School
- Onslow St Audrey’s School
- Parmiter’s School
- Priory School
- Sele School
- Sir John Lawes School
- St Marys CE High School
- Thomas Alleyne Academy
- Westfield Academy

**Sessions**
1. Shadowing a student ambassador in a chosen subject for one day
2. Attending lectures and other events across campus

**Aims**
1. To help pupils make informed decisions about applying to HE
2. To inform students on various aspects of HE (academics, social and financial)

**Outcomes**
1. Ability to make informed application to HE
2. Increase in knowledge about student life
3. Improved subject knowledge
### Decision-making

71% of participants who came to Shadowing wanting to confirm a course choice now know what course to apply to.

"I was able to clarify my options [...] A great opportunity and I would gladly do it again"

*Onslow School pupil*

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### Knowledge about HE

75% feel comfortable on-campus.

"I'm really looking to uni now"

*Barclay's School pupil*

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### Knowledge about HE

88% can visualise themselves as university students.

"I enjoyed it a lot. It allowed me to get an in-depth perspective of university and lectures"

*Barnwell School pupil*

"Provided an insight to life as a student and allowed me to experience university"

*Sele School pupil*

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### Awareness of key info

83% of participants who were unsure what course to apply to now know how/where to get more information.

"I have gained more knowledge on courses and student life"

*Hertswood Academy pupil*
At what point in the decision-making process are participants?

94.5% agree ambassadors were knowledgeable about courses & subjects
96% agree ambassadors were knowledgeable about student life
76% agree ambassadors were knowledgeable about student finance
89% agree ambassadors were knowledgeable about student accommodation

97% usefulness rating
95% satisfaction rating

"Today has helped and prepared me more for the future. Very useful day" Onslow School pupil
"I found that Human Biology is not the right course for me" Onslow School pupil
"Better than an open-day!" Sele School pupil
"Didn’t want to go to uni at all, now I’m highly considering it" Onslow School pupil

"My ambassador was very friendly and told me a lot of things that reassured me about uni life”
Hertswood Academy pupil

"Able to narrow my options and experience university”
St Mary’s CE High School pupil

"My [ambassadors] were very helpful and were able to answer a wide range of questions I brought forward concerning university.”
Onslow School pupil

8% Just started
17% Identified courses
43% Narrowed it down
32% Ready to apply
The **Children in Care Summer School** raises aspirations for participants who face barriers to entry in higher education. Sessions are designed to engage pupils in academic topics and university life in order to motivate them to think about applying to university. Children in Care (CiC) are immersed in a range of university environments and exciting academic and physical challenges designed to introduce them to life in higher education.

### Participating local authorities:
- Barnet
- Brent
- Camden
- Enfield
- Haringey
- Hertfordshire
- Islington

### Sessions
1. Trips to Cambridge Uni, Central School of Speech & Drama and UH
2. Taster lectures and subject-specific workshops
3. Adventure activities & theatre trip

### Aims
1. To inspire CiC to aim for HE
2. To provide an insight into what uni offers academically
3. To expose CiC to new environments & experiences

### Outcomes
1. Boost in aspirations
2. Increase in knowledge about academic courses & student life
3. Increase in confidence & engagement
## Children in Care tend to have limited exposure to HE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many conversations have CiC had about university in the last year with carers, social workers and teachers?</th>
<th>How many family members or friends do CiC have that attended university?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40% rarely or never had conversations about university in the last year</td>
<td>36% have zero family members or friends who have attended university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33% had conversations every few months about university in the last year</td>
<td>36% have 1-3 family members or friends who have attended university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26% had conversations regularly about university</td>
<td>29% have more than 7 family members or friends who have attended university</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 80% of CiC felt Summer School had helped them think about their future

"It helped me to think about my opportunities more wisely"

"It helped me understand which courses I want to pursue to get my dream job"

"Gave me a chance to see Cambridge and that it might be a possibility to go there"
Assessing CiC confidence & views on attending university—before & after Summer School

Confidence

+56%
increase in confidence when meeting new people

Confidence

+52%
increase in CiC feeling 'very confident' about being in new environments

Attending HE

+47%
increase with CiC who 'strongly disagree' that university is not the environment for them

Attending HE

67%
agree that there's no reason why they can't attend university if they wish to
What routes are participants likely to follow after school?

+71% increase in CiC likely to apply to university after Summer School

90% said staff made them feel comfortable
91% felt sessions were delivered to a high standard
91% satisfaction with how staff & ambassadors helped during activities
92% satisfaction with the way staff & ambassadors answered questions

93% said Summer School changed their perception of university

"Great and friendly staff who makes you feel comfortable"

"They were fantastic"
"Everyone was brilliant"

"90% said staff made them feel comfortable"

"+71% increase in CiC likely to apply to university after Summer School"

"Great and friendly staff who makes you feel comfortable"

"They were fantastic"
"Everyone was brilliant"

"93% said Summer School changed their perception of university"

"It’s made me think more seriously about my future"

"I have learned a lot more about university and have a better understanding of it"

"I now want to go to university"

"Made me more enthusiastic about going"

"It showed that if I wanted to, that I could get into a well-known university"

"I always thought university would be intense and I didn’t see the good side [until today]"
A closer look at... Year 10 Beacon Summer School

The **Year 10 Beacon Summer School** offers students the chance to discover what life is like at university. They participate in a number of taster lectures, delivered by academic staff, which are designed to introduce them to new subjects and teaching and learning styles. Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) sessions help participants acquire key knowledge about university in order to make informed decisions about their future. By spending a night in university accommodation, including taking part in a social programme, participants are able to experience student life. The entire Summer School is shaped to increase awareness about university, raise aspirations and boost the confidence of those who might who face barriers to attending university.

**Participating local schools:**
- Adeyfield School
- Barnwell School
- Cheshunt School
- Francis Coombe Academy
- Kings Langley School
- Priory School
- The Sele School
- Thomas Alleyne School

**UH staff:** Cobi Campbell, Lindsey Rigby, Emily Ashton & Zahra Carnochan

**44 Year 10 students from 9 local schools**

**Exposure to student life**

**Provide an insight into university courses**

**Boost confidence by engaging with range of activities**

**Two-day, one-night residential event, on-campus**

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**Sessions**

1. Subject taster sessions
2. Staying overnight in university accommodation
3. Social programme

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**Aims**

1. To provide an insight into what university can offer academically
2. To experience what life is like as a university student
3. To expose to new environments & experiences

---

**Outcomes**

1. Increased awareness of and interest in courses available to study
2. Knowledge of what life is like at university
3. Increased confidence & engagement
Participants' exposure to higher education & main aims

37% would be the first in their family to attend university

19.5% rarely have any conversations about university with family, friends or teachers

87.5% of participants who rarely talk about university are unsure if university is the right environment for them

Main aims before Summer School

54% are aiming to find out about student life
34% want to find out about new courses
8% are aiming to build up their confidence

"My parents would really be proud of me and it would give me a chance to build for my future"

"It can help me decide if going to university is the right option for me in the future"

Participants' outcomes & favourite taster session

Key Summer School outcomes

19% boosted their confidence (137.5% increase for those who specifically stated that was their goal at the start of the event)

87% now have the necessary information to decide if university is for them

Aerospace:
"It included lots of practical work and could lead to my dream job"

Law:
"[the lecturer] really engaged the audience"

"This session made me realise that I do enjoy other things that I haven’t discovered yet"

Photography:
"I love the process of capturing something"

"I had never been in a darkroom before and I enjoyed being able to create something myself"

Psychology:
"I am doing Psychology at school so I got to understand the course in a lot more detail"
Boosting confidence and breaking down barriers

**Confidence**

**+39%**

increase in participants' confidence when meeting new people

"It’s much friendlier and it’s a lot more welcoming than I would have expected - seeing as there are so many people"

**88.5%**

of participants are now confident in new environments

"The activities allowed me to become more confident"

**Reducing obstacles**

**+85%**

increase in participants feeling comfortable in a university environment

"I now know what [university] is like and meeting some of the staff has been good and seeing the grounds – that was nice."

**-64%**

decrease in participants feeling there are obstacles to attending university

"I thought that it would be really expensive. I didn’t know anything about student loans or anything like that"
Most likely route after finishing school: before and after Summer School

Before
- University: 66%
- Don't know: 20%
- Other education (incl. apprenticeships): 14%

After
- University (+17%)
- Don't know: 20%
- Other education (-86% incl. apprenticeships)

98% said staff made them feel comfortable
96.5% satisfaction with how staff & ambassadors helped during activities
98% satisfaction with how staff & ambassadors answered questions
100% felt sessions were delivered to a high standard
98% satisfaction rating
91% usefulness rating

"The ambassadors were very welcoming and I felt very comfortable asking questions about university life"

"The ambassadors were fantastic. They helped us fit in and feel comfortable"

"It had interesting lectures and vital scenarios that could help me apply to university"

"It was amazing as I got to experience what university life is like and the lectures enabled me to understand how we would be taught. I also got the opportunity to ask a lot of questions which increased my knowledge further"

"It gave us information that we normally would not get. We also got the perspective of uni students and how they live and their experience"

"I really enjoyed having the opportunity to stay in a room instead of just viewing it [...] I have enjoyed trying different things like advertising. I thought I would never try that as I didn’t think it was for me"
A closer look at… Year 12 Summer School

The **Year 12 Summer School** has a very strong focus on Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) as sessions and workshops are devoted to navigating UCAS applications, with particular attention paid to understanding and writing personal statements and how to identify courses. Personal development is also a core aspect as students are challenged to adapt to the campus environment and the challenge of meeting new people and navigating campus spaces.

**Participating local schools:**
- Astley Cooper School
- Barclay School
- Elstree UTC
- Hertswood Academy
- Longdean School
- Samuel Ryder Academy
- Turnford School
- Watford UTC
- Westfield Academy

**Sessions**
1. Personal statement, UCAS & course-searching workshops
2. HE (Student Finance, Students' Union) & FE (Apprenticeships) talks
3. Social programme

**Aims**
1. To improve personal statement writing skills, decision-making & ability to navigate UCAS application process
2. To raise awareness about HE/FE environments
3. To expose to new environments & experiences

**Outcomes**
1. Produce personal statement; narrow-down course/university choices
2. Understand options available
3. Increase in confidence, engagement & knowledge of what life is like at university
Participants' exposure to higher education

Frequency of conversations about university with friends, family or teachers in last 12 months

- Once or more a week: 44%
- Several times a month: 34%
- Every few months: 22%

31% of participants would be the first in their family to attend university

Participants' aims & outcomes

Main aim before Summer School

- 55% are aiming to learn about personal statements...
  ...but this drops to 19% for potential 'first in family to university' students

- 31% aiming to find out about student life...
  ...but this rises to 44% for potential 'first in family to university' students

"I want to gain a feeling as to what it's like to live as a student. Also, I want to gain a better understanding of how to write a personal statement"

Personal statement knowledge

- 84% increased their confidence in writing personal statements

"I have learned how to write a personal statement. It’s a lot easier now to be able to recognise my skills and put them into a personal statement."
Narrowing choices, making decisions, boosting confidence and breaking down barriers

**Narrowing choices**

+29%

increase in participants considering just 1 course to apply to

"It gave me a load of helpful information, which will help me decide my future"

**Decision-making**

+60%

increase in participants having enough information to make an application

"I learned a lot about university and how I can apply to my best ability"

**Confidence**

+35%

increase in participants feeling comfortable in a university environment

"Gave me a feel of the environment and a chance to [experience] a bit of freedom and independence"

**Reducing obstacles**

+62%

increase in participants agreeing there are no obstacles to attending university

"I learnt things that I didn’t know: about uni life, finance and personal statements"
At what point in the decision-making process are participants?

Before
- Identified courses
- Narrowed down course choice
- Writing personal statements
- Other

After
- Identified courses (-67%)
- Narrowed down course choice (+86%)
- Writing personal statements (+57%)

"They were all lovely and tried their hardest to help us with anything that was needed and made us feel welcome!" "They made an effort to get to know you"

91% felt sessions were delivered to a high standard

100% said staff made them feel comfortable

91% satisfaction with how staff & ambassadors helped during activities

88% satisfaction with how staff & ambassadors answered questions

84.5% satisfaction rating

91% usefulness rating

"I learned a lot about university and how I can apply to my best ability"

"It was useful because I now know about student life and how I would pay off my loans"

"I am so excited to be able to apply to uni because staying in the dorms and being with new people has just shown me that uni is not a scary place"

"The advice that the tutors gave us has been really helpful"

"What I have learned most is preparing myself for what’s ahead of me, the university, learning about the accommodation, being able to get a feel for [living on my own], what the night life is like, being amongst your peers"

"Talking with the ambassadors has helped me to know exactly what I want to do after school"

"They were really helpful and full of advice"
## Appendix 1 – List of schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School type</th>
<th>School name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beacon</td>
<td>Adeyfield School</td>
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<td>Astley Cooper School</td>
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<td>Barclay School</td>
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<td>Bushey Academy</td>
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<td>Samuel Ryder Academy</td>
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<td>Francis Combe Academy</td>
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<td>Hertswood School</td>
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<td>Watford UTC</td>
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