Autumn School

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University Of Hertfordshire
Outreach and Widening Participation
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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
- Kings Langley School
- Onslow St Audreys
- Samuel Ryder Academy
- Sheredes School
- St Marys CE High School
- Thomas Alleyne Academy
- Turnford School

**UH staff:**
Lindsey Rigby, Emily Ashton & Ruth Starling-Joyce

**Maths & English workshops**
40 Year 11 students from 9 local schools

**Boosting attainment for GCSE C/D borderline students**
Three day non-residential

**Aims**
1. Develop confidence and resilience to negotiate the challenge of university life and graduate progression
2. Develop students’ study skills and capacity for academic attainment and successful graduate progression

**Objectives**
1. Increase confidence in their capacity to progress onto HE
2. Identify and develop study skills through educational projects which encourage active learning
3. Develop revision techniques and skills
4. Establish a positive association with UH

**Sessions**
1. Intense Maths & English workshops
2. Subject based presentations & Thorpe Park
Autumn School Evaluation:

**80%**
**Confidence**

more confident in achieving a C grade in Maths/English

"It's given me lot more confidence... and makes me want to go to university."
*Autumn School Maths Student*

**88%**
**Aspirations**

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

"... it has motivated me to try harder in my subjects"
*Autumn School Maths Student*

**87%**
**Knowledge & skills**

have the necessary skills to improve their grades

"I will use what I've learnt to structure my piece of work"
*Autumn School English Student*

"I now how to go about solving different types of equations... it will help me in gaining a C"
*Autumn School Maths Student*

**90%**
**Independent learning**

know how to go about improving their skills

"[An] Adult learning environment makes a huge difference from school and a lot easier to learn"
*Autumn School English Student*

"... I have the right ideas how to revise and what to revise on"
*Autumn School Maths Student*
Where are students likely to be headed once they finish school...?

- Apprenticeship
- Other College course/training
- University
- Don’t know yet
- Other (incl. FT job)

Image 1: Maths students’ group presentation on factors, incl. ‘right’ and ‘wrong’ quiz

Image 2: Maths students’ group presentation on angles
 Autumn School Overall Satisfaction:

85% satisfaction rating

90% agree their teacher was engaging

90% agree staff & ambassadors were welcoming

87% agree their practitioner explained ideas & concepts clearly

77% agree teachers explained what was needed to get a C grade

95% agree staff & ambassadors helped during sessions

“More people should’ve come, [it was] very helpful” Autumn School English Student

"Given me lots more confidence in a subject I wasn't confident in" Autumn School Maths Student

"[I will] use skills in exams to achieve higher grades" Autumn School English Student

"It made me realise that I want to go University..." Autumn School English Student

"I am more confident with answering exam style questions" Autumn School Maths participant

"I've gained lots of skills, had an insight into college and met lots of nice people" Autumn School English Student
The Autumn School Mentoring Programme provided an opportunity for sixth form students from across the county of Hertfordshire to come on to campus and take part in a one day intensive training programme. The sixth form students received sessions on; how to be a mentor, study skills, dealing with concerns and issues, and participated in activities aimed to build awareness and develop body language, listening, questioning, and communication skills. The mentors worked in small groups that integrated sixth form students from various schools. The following day the trained mentors were invited to put into practice what they had learnt by supporting the year 11’s in creating a presentation to deliver to the rest of the group.

**Aims**

1. Increase in confidence
2. Ability to communicate with others
3. Improved range of skill set
4. Aspirations to attend university

**Objective**

1. Improve interpersonal and communication skills
2. Develop leadership skills
3. To inspire pupils to aim for university

**Sessions**

1. Intense Mentoring workshops
Mentoring Programme Evaluation:

82% confident about embarking on a mentoring relationship

"I have developed better communication skills. Also better understanding..."
*Autumn School Mentor*

92% have a clear understanding of what mentoring is

"I'm going to try and use key skills in everyday life for the people around me"
*Autumn School Mentor*
Mentoring Programme Overall Satisfaction:

100% satisfaction rating

- 78% agree their teacher was engaging
- 92% agree their practitioner explained ideas & concepts clearly
- 85% agree staff & ambassadors were welcoming
- 92% agree staff & ambassadors helped during sessions
- “[Mentoring] helped me mature and [made] me more helpful to others” Autumn

- "Improved my communication skills and boosted my confidence!" Autumn School Mentor
- "[Mentoring] was great" Autumn School Mentor
- "It was a good experience" Autumn School Mentor
- "[I had the] satisfaction of the mentee feeling confident" Autumn School Mentor