Outreach and Widening Participation

Spring School Report – 2014/15

Author: Stephane Farenga, Research & Evaluation Officer

www.herts.ac.uk
The aim of **Spring School** is to increase the confidence of Year 12 students who have failed 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
- Turnford School
- Westfield Academy

**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% **Confidence**

- 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% **Aspirations**

- 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% **Knowledge & skills**

- 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*

  "I will add language techniques and a range of punctuation"

  *Spring School English participant*

96% **Independent learning**

- 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...?

- University
- Other Education
- Don't know
- 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*