Outreach and Widening Participation

Pathfinder Days Report – 2014/15

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**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>
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<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>
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<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>
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<td>&quot;You got a sense of the atmosphere&quot; <em>Parmiter's 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>
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<td>&quot;Because I've never been to a university before&quot; <em>Priory pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;We got to show off what we learned&quot; <em>Thomas Alleyne pupil</em></td>
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### Busting myths and boosting aspirations...

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<th>&quot;I learnt that uni isn't as hard or stressful as I thought, but it's also fun and a new experience&quot; <em>Parmiter's pupil</em></th>
<th>&quot;To get a better job and pursue my dreams&quot; <em>Nobel pupil</em></th>
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<td>&quot;I learnt that it is possible for anyone to go to uni no matter what their financial state is like&quot; <em>Fearnhill pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;I would like a degree so I can have a choice of what I want to do in life&quot; <em>Parmiter's pupil</em></td>
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<td>&quot;It reassured me about the financial aspect of uni&quot; <em>Astley Cooper pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;I think it might give me a better chance in life&quot; <em>Marriotts pupil</em></td>
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<td>&quot;It isn’t as scary and daunting as I thought it was&quot; <em>Barnwell pupil</em></td>
<td>&quot;So I can study subjects I like and have a better career&quot; <em>Fearnhill pupil</em></td>
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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

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

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

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?

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

95% of participants were satisfied with the delivery of sessions

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

"I want to go to uni so I can learn how to be independent and get a good job" St Marys pupil

"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

"It was very useful to meet actual students and understand their views" Onslow pupil

"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 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 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 Marys pupil