



Outreach @Warwick

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Issue 1 Autumn/Winter 2015



Welcome to The University of Warwick Widening Participation and Outreach Team's termly newsletter, and Merry Christmas!

Each term we will bring you the latest news and updates; including events that have happened on campus and in local schools across the term and those ran by departments; as well as updates to key information such as Student Finance, and general advice and guidance.

Children's University

Simultaneous Graduation Ceremonies were held at The University of Warwick for over 160 children who took part in The Children's University accompanied by 200 parents! This was the first time this had been tried and the children and their families had a lot of fun.

The Children's University™ is an international charity with over 90 CU Centres across the UK. Children own a "Passport to Learning" and are encouraged to earn stamps by participating in a wide-range of extra-curricular activities available at Learning Destinations both locally and across the country. Children's University offers the perfect opportunity for children to learn new skills. It can help boost children's self-esteem, encourages them to have an active lifestyle and are able to learn new skills and make new friends.

We were very pleased to see many children aged 5 - 14 years old reaching the Gold Award of 100 hours and higher, for



participating in innovative and exciting learning opportunities outside normal school hours.

Children and their families filled the two lecture theatres in the Zeeman Building on campus. Wearing official mortar boards and gowns children were welcomed and presented with their official certificates.

Carolyn Lloyd, Children's University Strategic Manager, said 'We are always looking for

This term we have...

Worked with
73 schools
Spent over
136 hours
with students
Attended 36
in-school events

exciting places where learning takes place and having the University of Warwick on board is key to the success of Children's University."

Paul Blagburn, Head of Widening Participation at the University of Warwick said "The Children's University is an inspiring opportunity for young people to get an insight into what their future could be about; it's an immense privilege to witness the pride on the faces of the children and their parents when they graduate".

In this issue:

Meet the Team!
Introducing ourselves...

Schools Warwick Visit
On 4th November pupils visited campus

Pathways Prodigy
Student accepted on the prestigious Eversheds Unlocked Programme

Ambassador Recruitment
Training is now underway for our new pool of students

Pathwaystolaw

The Pathways to Law programme launched on 14th November, with 35 students and their families coming on to campus for an introduction to the programme and some informative sessions. The programme works with highly able Year 12 and 13 students who are interested in studying and practicing law. Parents had the opportunity to quiz some of our WP Ambassadors and students got to know each other better with ice breaker activities and learnt about the process of applying to University. The feedback from the day has been overwhelmingly positive, and the students have expressed their excitement at starting the two year course, which will prepare them

for applying to and studying law at a competitive institution.

'Pathways Prodigy'

One of our Pathways to Law students, Harry has recently been accepted onto the Eversheds Unlocked Academy, a highly competitive programme. Harry has been a wonderful student on the Pathways to Law programme and excelled at both the academic and soft skills sides of Pathways. Here is a note from Harry on his recent success:

'Pathways to Law has given me the opportunity to develop my skills and pursue a career in law... they organised a three-day work experience placement with the law firm - Eversheds. Meeting with partners, trainee solicitors and clients gave me the passion to want to continue with law and developed the skills that would be useful in

a legal career. I have since been offered a place on the Eversheds Unlocked Academy. This is a four-year programme, where I will gain an Eversheds mentor who will guide me through my final year of A Levels, my time at University and will steer me on the correct path to a

training contract. All of this would not have been possible without Pathways to Law.'



Ambassador Recruitment

This academic year saw us receive a record number of applications for the role of WP student ambassador. After an extensive recruitment and selection process, we have recruited 36 new ambassadors whom upon successful completion of our training programme will join our current team of 80+ students. It is fantastic to have such a large pool of ambassadors to support all of our in-school and on campus activity this year, we are looking forward to working with them.

Our ambassadors are vital to all the work we do and play a huge role in the delivery of our events, here is something a representative of a partner school had to say about a recent event: *'Your ambassadors were well informed and engaging. They engaged well with all students and were able to adapt to the different age ranges of our students to ensure that they understood the information given.'*



Cohort 11 Launch

On 14th November, we were delighted to welcome around 100 Year 10 students who have been selected to be a part of the UniTracks Programme. This year there are students from 27 schools stretching from South Cumbria through Manchester, Derbyshire, the West Midlands and on down to East London and the South Coast - the highest number of participating schools in recent history.

As a UniTracks participant, the students also get membership to IGGY, the International Gateway for Gifted Youth! In addition to all of the usual content available on IGGY, UniTracks participants also have an exclusive Debate area, where they can chat with other UniTracks members and our UniTracks 'Advisors', current first years here at Warwick who participated in the Programme themselves.

For more information on UniTracks, please contact Catherine at unitracks@warwick.ac.uk

Sutton Scholars



We held the launch for Year 2 of the Warwick Sutton Scholars programme for our returning cohort in October. The information evening saw us welcome over 200 guests back onto campus to hear a detailed overview of the programme for this year. It was also an opportunity for us to unveil our plans for our exciting Easter Residential in March 2016.

The recruitment cycle for a new cohort of Year 8 students closed on 1st December and due to the success of the programme last year we will be looking to recruit 100+ students from across 70 schools in the West Midlands.

EXPERIENCE WARWICK

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Experience Warwick Partnership Programme is aimed at raising aspirations and attainment amongst Widening Participation cohort learners from Yr. 7 - 13 in Coventry and Warwickshire. In its third year now the programme continues to go from strength to strength, we now work with **26 partner schools with over 30 in school activities** taking place in this term. We also organise a wide variety of on campus events including Taster Days, Summer Schools and A Level Revision Sessions. Some feedback from our partner schools about our events this term: *'Pupils were really engaged and thought the process was very useful and rewarding. Very well organised and excellent resources.'*

Meet the Team

We aim to demystify the academic world of university life and offer impartial information, advice and guidance, enabling learners to make informed decision at key milestones in their school career. Our outreach programmes have been tailored to help schools/colleges to support the progression of learners whose peers and family have limited knowledge of experience of HE.



Paul Blagburn
Head of Widening Participation and Outreach

Paul has responsibility for the leadership of the central Widening Participation and Outreach Team and the implementation of the institutional WP strategy and access agreement.



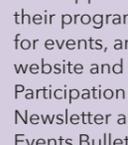
Katie Barlow
Widening Participation Co-Ordinator

Katie manages the Widening Participation and Outreach support team and oversees the central Widening Participation and Outreach programme and activity administration.



Paul Beaufoy and Hannah Jones
Senior Widening Participation Assistants

Paul and Hannah provide administrative assistance and support to all Officers on their programmes, prepare for events, and maintain the website and Central Widening Participation and Outreach Newsletter and Upcoming Events Bulletin.



Anna Burchfiel
Outreach Officer (Pathways to Law)



Claire Edden
Outreach Officer (Experience Warwick Programme)

Claire is currently responsible for the Experience Warwick Programme, Year 10 Summer School, is the Widening Participation Link Officer for the Faculty of Social Science, and works with Looked after Children and Care Leavers.



Marie Diebolt
Outreach Officer (Realising Opportunities and Primary Programme)

Marie is responsible for the Realising Opportunities Programme, the Warwick Primary Programme and Partnership and the Experience Warwick Year 12 Summer School.



Catherine McNicholl
Outreach Officer (UniTracks)

Catherine is the UniTracks Programme co-ordinator, and is the Widening Participation Link Officer for the Faculty of Science.



Annunziata Videtta
Outreach Officer (Pathways to Law)

Anna is currently responsible for the Pathways to Law programme and is the Widening Participation Link Officer for the Faculty of the Arts.



Amanda Purnell
Outreach Officer (Student Progression Team)

Amanda is the programme co-ordinator for the Student Progression Team, she is also responsible for the Year 11 Summer School, run in conjunction with Queen Mary University, London.



Laura Fisher
Widening Participation Co-ordinator (Sutton Scholars)

Laura co-ordinates the Warwick Sutton Scholars programme and is also responsible for managing our Widening Participation Student Ambassadors.



Kate McCarthy
Research Officer

Kate is responsible for analysing, reporting and benchmarking trends in student data, evaluating the impact of Widening Participation Activity and outcomes and improving the evaluation of our activity.



Elaine Moore
Student Funding Advisor (Outreach)

Elaine provides specialist information, advice and guidance to schools, colleges and individuals with respect to university fees, statutory funding and bursaries.



Martin Price
Collaborative Outreach Network Manager (Think Higher)

Martin currently manages the Think Higher project for Coventry and Warwickshire, and works to bring universities and public sector partners together in the interests of Widening Participation.

Caroline Geraghty Think Higher Project Co-ordinator

Caroline is Project Co-ordinator for Think Higher, part of the National Networks for Collaborative Outreach (NNCO) scheme. Working alongside Martin, Caroline co-ordinates all aspects of the Think Higher project.

Annunziata Videtta Outreach Officer (Pathways to Law)

Annunziata will be returning to the team in the New Year, and will replace Anna as programme co-ordinator for Pathways to Law.

Introducing... thinkhigher

Think Higher (www.thinkhigher.ac.uk) is part of the HEfCE "National Networks for Collaborative Outreach (NNCO)" scheme, a new £25m government scheme (more detail here: www.hefce.ac.uk/sas/ncco/) aiming to ensure that all state-funded secondary schools and colleges understand how they can access HE outreach activity and simplify the ways in which they can do so. The scheme aims to encourage more young people into higher education. Through Think Higher we aim to build on existing partnerships and develop new ways of working together to build and sustain a long term network focused on progress to HE and the development of high level skills. We would like schools in Coventry and Warwickshire, as well as staff in universities and colleges, to be part of this new initiative. For more information please contact Martin Price m.r.price@warwick.ac.uk.

Schools Warwick Visit

The first Schools Warwick Visit took place on Wednesday 4th November with 180 year 11-13 students and teachers from four schools in attendance. The day included a Welcome to Warwick talk from a member of the Student Recruitment team, and a market place of stands from the University, including Student Finance, Accommodation and Warwick Sport. There was also an opportunity for students and teachers to ask questions to a panel of University representatives, and the day ended with a tour around campus. Thank you to the four schools who attended, and we hope that both your students and teachers enjoyed the day.

If you are interested in attending the next Schools Warwick Visit on 10th February 2016 with a group of Year 11-13 students, please email outreach@warwick.ac.uk.

A spotlight on...

Law

On Saturday 21st November, the University launched its 'Writing Wrongs' schools project, an essay competition being run by the School of Law and Department of English and provides year 12 students with an exciting opportunity to see their work published in the University of Warwick's Lacuna online magazine and gain a paid, month-long summer internship with the magazine. In line with the magazine's ethos of challenging indifference to suffering and promoting human rights, students were asked to write a 2,500 word essay related to the theme of social justice.

As part of the project, leading academics and writers from Warwick will provide students with advice and guidance on essential research and writing skills through intensive workshops and online resources. In doing so, students will experience first-hand the practice of university style research and writing and gain skills to aid them during their A Level studies.

The project runs from November 2015 - April 2016 with the paid internship taking place during the summer holiday period 2016. The project involves students who aspire to study at a top university, are from a non-traditional background, and are from the following local schools: Tile Hill Wood, Caludon Castle, President Kennedy, Cardinal Wiseman, Foxford, Lyng Hall, Westwood Academy, Campion School.

On the morning of the launch event, **Dr Anil Awesti**, the Law School's Widening Participation Officer and project lead, was interviewed on the Lorna Bailey show on BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire to talk about the project and the Law School's general widening participation work.

For further information on the Law School's Widening Participation activity, please contact: A.K.Awesti@warwick.ac.uk.



Finance

Supporting your students with student finance

With student finance applications due to open at the end of January, now would be a good time for your students to begin thinking about funding their University study.

The Student Funding Outreach team deliver free, impartial workshops and presentations to students and parents/carers to help them to understand their entitlements and prepare for living and learning on a student budget.

For more information or to book an event, please email fundingoutreach@warwick.ac.uk or telephone 024 7657 5595.

Our top tips:

- ▶ Encourage your students to apply early for their student finance, even if they don't yet have a confirmed place. The cycle opens at the end of January and applications should be submitted by the end of May in order to be assessed by the start of the academic year.
- ▶ Start researching bursary and scholarship support and be aware of eligibility criteria and application deadlines. Contact universities directly to see what's on offer. See warwick.ac.uk/warwickusb for details about the awards available from Warwick.
- ▶ Discuss possible parental contributions and look into part-time work opportunities, from this students can gain a realistic idea of how their budget will take shape as a student.



Diary dates

10th February 2016
16th March 2016
26th May 2016

Schools Warwick Visit (Years 11-13)
Faculty Taster Day (Year 12)
Teachers' and Advisors' Conference

1st-3rd June 2016
22nd June 2016

A2 Revision Boot Camp (Year 13)
Get Ready to Apply (Year 12)

LOOK OUT... Summer School Applications will be sent out in the New Year!

Contact Us

✉ outreach@warwick.ac.uk
☎ 024 7657 3555

💻 warwick.ac.uk/outreach
🐦 @OutreachWarwick