

WIDENING PARTICIPATION NEWS



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Welcome to this Introductory Widening Participation (WP) Newsletter

by Lynne Trower

The BHASVIC WP team would like to take this opportunity to introduce themselves and to provide you with details of some of the exciting opportunities available to students in our WP cohort. It has been a busy start to the year, students have been settling in to a new environment and becoming familiar with their courses and we hope that they have had a positive start to their College experience.

This newsletter is intended to summarise the main activities currently being offered by our local universities whilst also informing you of other opportunities that may be appropriate. Most events are free of charge but where there is a cost implication, it will have been highlighted. It is important to check eligibility criteria for each activity as this will vary from scheme to scheme. Apologies for the length of this newsletter - it is packed full of information!

Important notice: BHASVIC Futures Fair will be taking place on Thursday 23rd January 2020. This is the main careers event in the BHASVIC calendar. There will be over 90 representatives from national and local employers as well as universities, apprenticeship providers and gap year organisations. All students are encouraged to attend this event and parents/carers are also welcome. Further details will be on the parent page of the website in January.

WHAT IS WIDENING PARTICIPATION - WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND HOW TO FIND US....

The aim of Widening Participation (WP) is to offer additional information and support to students from groups who are currently under-represented in Higher Education in the UK (e.g., first in the immediate family to consider university, specific post codes and a variety of other factors). Each university has their own criteria.

We work closely with our local partners (the Universities of Brighton, and Sussex and Into University), to offer a programme that is designed to help WP students explore their future options, make informed choices and develop their full potential.

Lynne Trower is a Careers Advisor and BHASVIC's Widening Participation Coordinator. She can advise on the support available to students who are eligible for activities. Lynne has knowledge of WP offers being made by other universities, and is happy to signpost students to these. Being a part of our WP cohort, and registering for any scheme, does not place any obligation on a student to apply to university.

The programme is simply intended to support students to make informed choices about their options when they leave BHASVIC, including investigating the possibility of moving on to university level study. Engaging in the scheme does not commit a young person to making a university application, or to applying to any specific university.

Meet the BHASVIC Widening Participation team

Lynne Trower
Widening Participation
Coordinator



Sam Davey
Student Services Assistant



Welcome to BHASVIC Widening Participation (WP)

Through this newsletter you will receive information from the Student Services team on a regular basis. We provide details of upcoming opportunities from external providers (often from universities or organisations offering taster days) as well as careers information and suggestions to help students make better informed decisions.



Launch Events

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent launch events at BHASVIC and the University of Sussex. We hope that you found these useful and now have a clearer idea of what the Widening Participation scheme can offer. As stated at the event, we simply wish to support each young person to make the most appropriate choice for them; this may be university, but it could also be

progression to employment or an apprenticeship. Whatever route a student chooses they will gain useful information and be guided by the Student Services team.

Registration

We have identified eligible students via the survey that they completed during the summer; it was part of their summer work and this has also given us the ability to signpost students to various support services. If a student has been identified as eligible then we have informed them directly of how to register for each scheme but have also sent an email to their parents/carers. The schemes that students need to register for are listed below:



- Students who are eligible for the University of Brighton will have had their details sent directly to the university (if they gave us permission to share their information; those who did not give permission will not receive information from the university).

- Students we believe are eligible to register for the University of Sussex scheme will have been sent this link [First Generation Scholars Scheme](#). If the registration process is not completed then it will not be possible for a student to take part in WP activities.
- If a student is eligible for the Into University programme then they need to complete a form, this can be collected from Student Services reception. If you are not registered for Into University yet then please check the criteria below to see if you are eligible.

If you meet one of these:

- Free school or college meals (in the last 6 years)
- Living in social housing
- Income less than £25,000

Or two of these:

- Young carer
- Special educational needs
- English as an additional language
- First generation to go to university
- Challenging behaviour at school (previously suspended or excluded)

Please call in to Student Services to pick up an application form for Into University if you think you are eligible.

Many activities are offered during the early part of the year so it is beneficial to register as soon as possible. The universities will set a registration deadline and after this they will not take new students. Please do not miss the opportunities being offered by failing to register. We will continue to send the newsletter to you until the deadline has passed, after which time we will assume that you do not want to be included in the scheme.

You will receive information directly from the universities to confirm your application has been successful. Please contact them with application queries.

Inclusion in Activities

If a student is successful in applying to any activity they must check with their teachers that it is OK for them to attend, (this only applies if the event is in college time and will result in them missing college to attend). Once they have done this, they must notify our attendance team and the WP team - this can be done by emailing outofcollege@bhasvic.ac.uk and copying in wp@bhasvic.ac.uk.

Ongoing support

If a student requires support regarding WP they can make an appointment with Lynne via the front desk in Student Services.

Booking Events at Partner Universities

University of Brighton - Compact Plus Events

This university offers a range of events and talks for college and sixth form students, parents and carers. These activities aim to provide impartial information, advice and guidance to students making decisions about higher education. Please see visit [Compact Plus](#) for the events portal where students can book online to attend events at the University of Brighton.

Thinking about University

An event aimed at giving an introduction to university, and provides advice for parents and carers. The evening will begin with a campus tour and will give information on the following:

- Making the right subject and course choice
- How to use the UCAS Higher Education convention
- Submitting a strong application
- Introduction to the student funding system
- Considering how work and voluntary experience can strengthen your personal statement

**The event will take place on
Wednesday 29 January 2020**

Time: 18:00 – 19:30

**Venue: Falmer Campus, University
of Brighton**

**Target Group: Parents of students
in year 12**



Places are limited so please contact the university as soon as possible to book your place – it is a great opportunity to visit the university but also to gain information that is useful when supporting your students in their progression planning.

Book [here](#):



University of Sussex – First Generation Scholars Events (FGSS)

Please click [here](#) to see an events portal where students can book online to attend events at the University of Sussex.

IntoUniversity

Please click [here](#) for IntoUniversity. Please check the criteria on the previous page to see if you're eligible to apply.

You will receive information directly from the universities to confirm your application has been successful. Please contact them with application queries.

Events are free of charge but students must be able to travel to the event independently.



Subject Specific Opportunities

Accountancy & Finance

Access Accountancy is a movement for change across the accountancy profession. Working towards everyone having an equal chance of accessing the profession. Accountancy firms and professional bodies have committed to measurable outcomes, which aim to deliver real change and welcome talented and ambitious young people to the profession from all backgrounds, supporting social mobility. Please follow the link to access further information [here](#).



If you are interested in accountancy and Finance there are a range of schemes available to support your progression and minimise the cost. An example of one of these is the **PwC Flying Start programme**; see more details at by clicking [here](#). You can look at other large accountancy firms, for example, Ernst Young, Deloitte, Mazars etc. – all of whom offer programmes aimed at either giving an alternative route to a degree, or reducing the costs of the degree you study.

PwC Work Experience Programmes for 2020

Do you have an interest in business and finance or technology? PwC have two exciting programmes for you to find out more about the business and discover where your interests lie.

Spend an action-packed week in a PwC office during your summer holiday – meeting the staff, experiencing the work they do and making new friends. PwC support many household brands, governments, charities and global companies with everything from planning for the future, to how they can make best use of their technology and meet the challenges of a changing world of business. Plus, you'll get advice and coaching from their recruitment team. If it goes well, you'll have the opportunity to: secure a full-time job when you leave college; explore their Flying Start degree programme; or join one of their undergraduate work experience programmes if you decide university is for you.

PwC are launching their work experience programmes for 2020 in November 2019. Students will need to be:

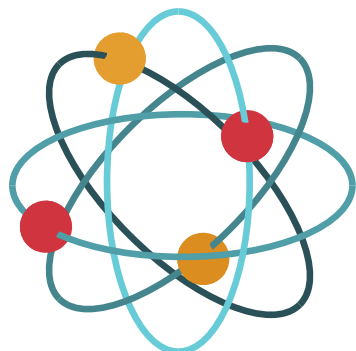
- In year 12
- Expected to achieve a minimum of a 96 UCAS tariff at A Level.

We'll be looking for students to demonstrate a genuine interest in PwC and the world of business (Business Insight Week) and technology (Big Data Summer Camp).

Students can apply from November.

To take advantage of this great opportunity, and to see what other opportunities are available to you please visit this [website](#)

Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM)



The Nuffield Trust run research placements that are available to students interested in STEM subjects. Attendance at one of these events would be a great addition to a personal statement. This is **not a free activity** so please check the costs involved when applying.

Please see this [link](#) for more information. Applications for this event are to be made directly to the Nuffield Trust and are now open. Please let Wp@BHASVIC.ac.uk know if you apply.

in2scienceUK is an award-winning charity which empowers students from WP backgrounds to achieve their potential and progress to STEM and research careers through high quality work placements and careers guidance. Click the [link](#) for more information.

To sign up for informational alerts for the 2020 programme please go to this [page](#).

Career in Property

Every day we are influenced by the built environment around us – shops, offices, industrial buildings, houses and the surrounding countryside all have an impact on the way we live. Did you ever wonder how these properties are developed, whether the buildings going up in our cities are sustainable or how much they are worth? Join the Pathways to Property Open Online Course (OOC for short!) to learn about the property industry and the exciting careers within.



The OOC has been designed by leading academics at Henley Business School, University of Reading for students in secondary education. Taking place over three weeks and requiring six hours of study, the OOC is completely **free to complete** and runs fully online. During the course, learners will be able to ask for support from course mentors; a combination of academics and industry volunteers. Upon completion they will receive a Certificate of Achievement for their studies – a great addition to a CV or UCAS application. Visit [here](#)

All About School Leavers – Apprenticeships

If you are considering doing an apprenticeship, school leaver programme or sponsored degree, you will also need to start thinking about which industry you'd like to work in. In the UK there are apprenticeships available in all kinds of industries, from accounting and digital media to construction, engineering and IT. You are spoilt for choice! That is why it's important to start finding out about all of the different industries you can enter. For more information click on the [link](#).

Sutton Trust Pathway Applications

Opportunities to learn more about law, banking and medicine. The deadline for these schemes is approaching but these are a great opportunity for eligible students to gain an insight into the study of these professions. Please use this [link](#) to learn more.

Upcoming Activities Available



Royal Holloway Summer Residentials

Get a glimpse of life at Royal Holloway, on one of our free Year 12 summer university residentials.

Over the course of three days, you'll enjoy in a range of activities, including subject taster sessions, meeting students and staff, and a varied social programme. You'll even get to stay on campus in secure student accommodation. Applications open on 1st November 2019.

See this [link](#) for more information.



Reading Scholars 2020 - Applications are now open

Details of the scheme can be found on the [website](#).

Students will attend a number of one off days at the university and then a summer school, expenses will be covered and all activities are free. This is a scheme aimed at first year students who meet their eligibility criteria.

The opportunity to attend lectures and meet academics in order to find out more about their programmes is something that we hope will support students in their decision making process. If you are interested in:

Architecture	Film
Art & Design	Mathematics
Biology	Modern Languages (French, German & Spanish)
Business	Psychology
Chemistry, Food Science & Pharmacy	History, Archaeology and Classics
Education	Physical Geography & Environmental Science
English Literature	

This could be a fantastic opportunity, to apply please visit [here](#)

University of London Taster Days

If a student feels that they want to know more about a subject before considering studying it at university, or would like to improve their personal statement, these **Free** University of London taster days are a great way to do some research.

Students apply for a course in a subject area of their choice - if they are successful, they will spend time at a London based university meeting academics and students whilst also attending lectures and workshops. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.



Goldsmiths Progression Scheme

This scheme is a fantastic way to gain skills, meet new people, discover more about your subject and enhance your application to university. The scheme is open to students in Year 12 or first year of college, with events and activities running from January through to November 2020.

During your time on the scheme, you'll acquire a wealth of new skills that will help you at university and beyond, including:

- critical thinking skills
- increased subject knowledge
- support throughout the UCAS application process
- careers advice
- increased cultural awareness through trips and summer schools
- confidence in making your next step

To find out more about the subject areas being offered click [here](#).

Check your eligibility [here](#). The deadline is Monday 18th November 2019.

The Social Mobility Foundation

The Social Mobility Foundation offers a range of programmes for young people interested in:

Accountancy

Architecture

Banking & Finance

Biology & Chemistry

Business

Digital

Engineering & Physics

Law, Media & Communications

Medicine

Politics

Undecided

Who meets their criteria? Follow this [link](#) to find out about some of the amazing opportunities that are on offer.



Sutton Trust US Programme – Study in the US

What is it?

The Sutton Trust US Programme is an 18 month-long programme for talented year 12 students from across the UK. It includes two residentials in London to help participants explore US study, before all 150 students spend a week doing the programme's summer school at US universities (last year they stayed at MIT or Yale), during which time they visited a number of other universities in the US. As the students go into year 13, if they want to apply for US universities alongside their UCAS options, the Sutton Trust will support them, their families and their colleges with the application process, including further UK residentials.

How much does it cost for the students?

The programme is free for students – including travel, food, accommodation, admissions test preparation and more.

Who are we looking for?

The Sutton trust select 150 students to take part each year.

These students will:

- Currently be in Year 12 at a state school or college
- Not hold US citizenship
- Be from a low income family (generally, this will mean a household earning £45,000 or less)

The Sutton trust are looking for applicants that meet all or most of these criteria:

- Have achieved at least eight GCSEs at grade A or 7
- Show a commitment to the programme and interest in US culture and higher education
- Have a strong college reference

Individuals from a broad range of ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

To be notified when the 2020 applications open, for more information and the application form visit [here](#):

LSE Student Shadowing

Student Shadowing provides a unique opportunity for Year 12 and 13 students from schools and colleges in the UK to gain an insight into studying at LSE. Students spend half a day at LSE shadowing an undergraduate student.

As part of the day, they will:

- attend an undergraduate lecture
- have a tour of the campus
- quiz students on their university life



Students also have the opportunity to speak to someone from Student Marketing and Recruitment with any queries or concerns they have about admissions and other aspects of studying at LSE. In 2017/18, over 500 students took part in LSE's Student Shadowing Scheme and it runs from October to March each year and applications are now open for 2019/20. For more information click on this [link](#)

FREE Access Programme for Y12 students at the University of Oxford

UNIQ was previously a standalone summer school but has been expanded to include a Spring Conference and a digital learning portal enabling up to 2000 students to take part. The programmes are academically intensive and challenging but also a lot of fun. Importantly, every programme run by UNIQ is completely free of charge; the University covers all accommodation, food and travel expenses and any associated academic or social activity costs. A great many previous participants have gone on to make successful applications to Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities.

UNIQ is open to applications from UK state college students in their first year of further education. Detailed eligibility and selection criteria can be found [HERE](#). By taking part, UNIQ participants:

- Receive current advice on all aspects of Oxford admissions
- Gain confidence in their own abilities

Are better equipped to submit strong applications to competitive universities

For further information, details on when to apply (November 2019) and to sign up for alerts please use this [link](#).

Headstart Courses - this is not a free activity

EDT run successful university taster courses for students aged 16-17 in Year 12 and S5 (Scottish equivalent) who have an interest in creativity, problem solving, & STEM subjects – for those who want to look at the world, play a part to resolve critical issues to help our environment & create a better world. The courses are designed to increase confidence, help students make well informed decisions about their future & show STEM career paths to be accessible & exciting. Headstart courses range from 3-5 days. Our unique blend of learning and networking, whilst having fun, provides the perfect mix to understanding what type of career might lie ahead and help students make a more informed UCAS application. Our broad-based engineering courses give a flavour of many different aspects of engineering and our focus courses provide an insight into a variety of highly specialised fields.

To sign up for information when applications click [here](#)



UCL for Widening Participation Students

For all WP opportunities visit [here](#) for year 12 and 13. And for [here](#) medical school events. Target Medical Mentoring Scheme – deadline 27th October 2019.

UK Supreme Court Student Writing Competition

Applications are open for the UK Supreme Court's Student Writing Competition. The competition is aimed at students in Years 12 and 13, especially those who are considering studying law, politics or history at university. Students are required to argue for or against a point of law of their choice from the online information pack.



Entrants should write 1000-1500 words. The first prize is a £100 book voucher and the opportunity to spend a day at the Supreme Court. The competition is open until midday on 31st January 2020. Visit this [link](#) for details.

Uni Genius

Uni Genius is aimed at A-Level students and gives our geniuses the skills you need to thrive in the world of work and also opens you up to a much wider range of STEM opportunities for the future. Click [here](#) for more information.

Applicants must:

- Be of black African or Caribbean descent.
- Currently be in Year 12 at the time of application.
- Have studied at a non-selective state secondary school.
- Currently attend a non-fee paying sixth form or college.
- Have a minimum of 5 grades at A*, 9, 8 or 7 at GCSE.
- Currently be studying at least two Science Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM) subjects at A level.



Resources

TARGETcareers

The world of work is changing and there are now more options than ever for students, such as going to university, starting an apprenticeship or combining both through higher apprenticeship/sponsored degrees. For more information visit this [link](#)

TARGETcareers has created a new publication to help parents to support their children in their future career decisions. In the guide you will find information on:



- The world of apprenticeships
- Which routes are best financially
- Where your child will flourish
- Researching employer programmes
- Helping your child transition to university

Plus guides on how to get into different sectors such as finance, business, engineering and IT. The publication is completely free to access and you can find a copy called Paths to Professional Careers – a Parent’s Guide by visiting [here](#):

Pros and cons of Russell Group Universities

Russell Group or non-Russell Group university? Do students think there is only one type of university worth considering? Help them broaden their horizons and look a little deeper into what is out there. Visit [Which Uni](#)



And Finally.....

We have sent this newsletter to all parents/carers and students. Eligibility needs to be checked for all activities.

In order to take advantage of the opportunities and the events offered, please ensure that you have registered with the relevant Widening Participation scheme(s) before Friday 6th March 2020. Emails were sent out at the beginning of October containing details of the schemes for which students were eligible.