

AUTUMN 2020

# WIDENING PARTICIPATION NEWSLETTER

## WHAT IS INSIDE

---

**WIDENING  
PARTICIPATION AT  
BHASVIC - 2**

---

**BOOKING EVENTS AT  
PARTNER UNIVERSITIES -  
3**

---

**CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES  
- 4**

---

**VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES -  
8**

---

**VIRTUAL PROGRAMMES  
STEM SPECIFIC - 10**

---

**USEFUL WEBSITES- 11**

---



## INTRODUCTION

BY LYNNE TROWER

The BHASVIC Widening Participation (WP) team would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the widening participation scheme & provide you with details of some of the exciting opportunities available to students in our WP cohort.

It have been a busy start to an usual year; students have been settling in to a new environment & becoming familiar with their courses. We hope that they have had a positive start to the college experience with the addition of remote learning to the transition period taking some adjustment for all.

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 from further a field. Most events are free of charge, but where there is a cost implication, it will be highlighted. It is important to check eligibility criteria for each activity as this will vary from scheme to scheme.



## WHAT IS WIDENING PARTICIPATION?

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 (eg. first in the immediate family to consider university, specific postcodes and a variety of other factors).

We work closely with our local partners – the Universities of Brighton and Sussex and Into University with each university's WP scheme having their own criteria, enabling us to offer a programme that is designed to help WP students explore their future options, make informed choices and develop their full potential. We also provide details of upcoming opportunities from external providers and organisations offering taster days as well as careers information and suggestions.

I am a Careers Advisor and BHASVIC's Widening Participation Coordinator and can advise on the support available to students who are eligible for activities. I have knowledge of WP offers being made by other universities and am happy to signpost students to these.

Being part of our WP cohort and registering for any scheme **does not place any obligation on a student to go onto university or indeed apply to any specific 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.

We have already 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. We have shared their information with the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, but only if the student has already agreed to this. If a student is eligible for Into University programme, then they will have been sent a link to complete. This scheme has a smaller cohort than the universities and eligible students have been given the opportunity to register. This was offered on a first come, first served basis.

**[More Information on BHASVIC Website](#)**



## BOOKING EVENTS AT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES



**University of Brighton**

### **Outreach Programme - Events**

The University of Brighton 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 the link below to the online events portal where students can book online to participate events run by the university including academic tasters and Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG).

**Online open day 18th November 2020**

Click on 'More Information' below for general advice about university includes applying, interview support and personal statement presentation. Subject tasters are located under 'Subject Specific Q&A'.

**[More Information](#)**

### **University of Sussex**

A new scheme to be launch in late November 2020. See next newsletter or visit the university's website [here](#).

**US**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**OF SUSSEX**

# CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

## GOLDSMITHS PROGRESSION SCHEME



The Goldsmiths Progression Scheme is a fantastic way for students to gain skills, meet new people, discover more about their subject interests and enhance their application to university. The scheme is open to students in Year 12 or first year of college, with events and activities running from January 2021 through to November 2021.

The scheme will be running virtually next year but will have lots of exciting and engaging content for students to participate in. During their time on the scheme, students will acquire a wealth of new skills that will help them at university and beyond, including:

- critical thinking skills
- increased subject knowledge
- support throughout the UCAS application process
- careers advice
- confidence in making their next step

Applications for Goldsmiths Progression Scheme 2021 are now open and the **deadline for applications is Friday 15th January 2021.**

**[Students can apply here](#)**



**UCL**

The UCL's Access and Widening Participation team offers an exciting range of visits, events and programmes for students in years 5-13 and adult learners who are under-represented in higher education. There are also activities run for parents and carers.

All of the events and activities are designed to give students a greater insight into UCL's degree programmes and student life. UCL also seek to raise the aspirations of students from groups who are under-represented at university.

The events and activities are funded by UCL's Access and Participation Plan and Widening Participation funds. As such, there are eligibility criteria that all applicants should consider before applying.

**[More Information](#)**



# CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



## ROYAL HOLLOWAY SUMMER RESIDENTIALS

Get a glimpse of life at Royal Holloway, on one of our free university residentials for students in Year 12. Applications for the 2021 Summer University residentials are now open.

\*\*\*We currently plan to deliver these residentials on campus, an online alternative will be offered if this is not possible\*\*\*

If you are unsure of your university choices, then attending a summer school can help you decide what is important to you.

**Summer university applications close midnight 26 March 2021**

To apply, please check your eligibility. Then complete the relevant student application form. Next, ask a teacher and parent/carer to complete the other forms listed.

**Check eligibility, complete forms and find out more [click here](#)**

## London Taster Days



University of London Taster Courses are short courses at participating universities in and around London. They are designed for school students, usually in year 12, to get an insight into studying a particular subject or subject area at university. **Keep checking this website as more taster days will be added around January time.**

**[Search & book taster courses](#)**



## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

### Securing My Future - An Introduction to SMF

To find out more about the SMF programme '**Aspiring Professional Programme (APP)**', visit their website and sign up for their webinars which will also include an introduction to the programme – who they are, what their programme is about and how they can help you to achieve your aspirations. Webinars cover interests and aspirations such as:

- Accountancy, Banking and Finance
- Medicine
- Law, Politics and History

You can choose a webinar depending on what your interests are, and if you aren't fully decided yet, you are welcome to attend more than one webinar! **Closing date for applications is Wednesday 16th December 2020.** This is a fantastic opportunity so please visit the website to check your eligibility.

[More Information](#)

S \_ CIAL  
MO \_ BILITY  
F \_ UNDATION®



## CURRENT PROGRAMMES CONTINUED



### The Sutton Trust - Programmes Opening Soon

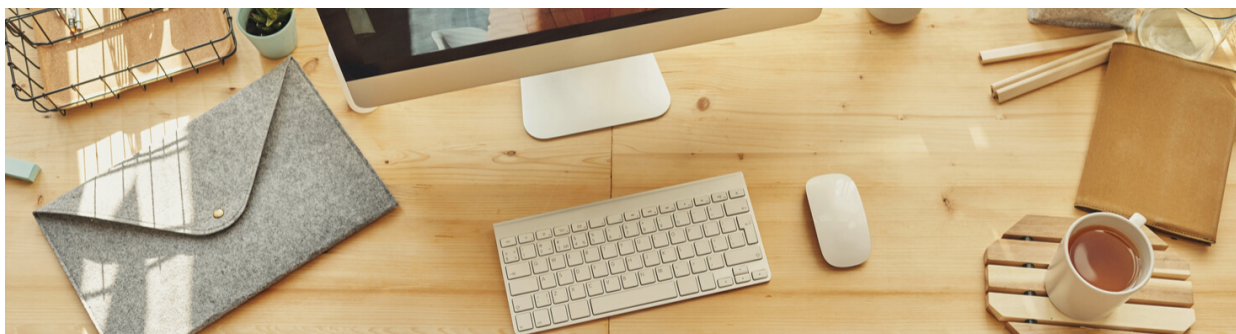
We support young people from less advantaged backgrounds to access leading universities and careers. In partnership with universities and employers, we run engaging programmes that give students practical advice and leave them feeling inspired and more confident about their future. Our programmes are completely free to attend. All costs – including travel, accommodation, food and activities – are paid for by the Trust and our partners.

Click on '**More Information**' below for further details on the upcoming programmes soon to be available.

- Pathway to Law Plus – TBC
- US Programme – TBC
- UK Summer Schools – 8th January 2021

**[More Information](#)**

**[Information for Parents/Carers](#)**



## VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES



### Virtual Placement Programme

In2scienceUK empowers young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their potential through life changing opportunities that give them insights into STEM careers and research and boosts their skills and confidence.

As physical placements can't be carried out this year, we have built a virtual placement platform, which will go live this summer!

This prestigious In2scienceUK virtual placement programme will connect you to experts from different fields within science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) who will share with you their work, insights, and tips for success!

Our exciting programme will enable you to connect with other like-minded young people and learn for yourselves what daily life looks like in different professions, while being supported through virtual means to develop key employability skills, undertake your own research and write successful UCAS and apprenticeship applications.

**[Visit In2science virtual placement programme for more information](#)**

Nuffield Research Placements are engaging, hands-on research projects, where students have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution towards the work of a host organisation. They are a fantastic opportunity for students to apply skills and knowledge learned at school and work alongside researchers and industry professionals.

**Applications open on the 9th November 2020**

**[For eligibility criteria and more information, click here.](#)**







## VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



### PwC Virtual Classroom

We're really excited to bring you the latest instalment of PwC's Virtual Classroom – a virtual programme open to students between Years 10 and 13.

The programme combines both live and pre-recorded sessions which will provide you with an insight into PwC and an opportunity to develop your employability skills.

You'll also have the chance to engage with a range of PwC ambassadors through the interactive live sessions, whilst having the flexibility to watch and listen to the recorded sessions at a time best suited to you each week.

We recognise that you'll continue to have school or college commitments during the four-week period so we've made the virtual programme as flexible as possible.

### **Dates of live sessions and more information**



## VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED STEM SPECIFIC



### EDT Headstart 23 - 27 November 2020

EDT run successful university taster courses for students aged 16-17 in Year 12 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 4-5 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.

#### [More information](#)

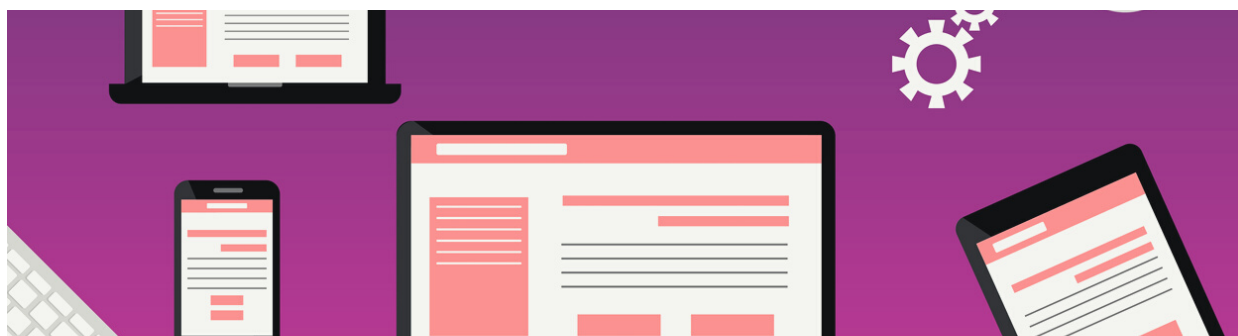
### Uniq (University of Oxford)



Do you have good school grades but are not sure if Oxford, or any university is right for you? Or perhaps you're generally feeling uncertain about the future? Our free UNIQ programme might be just what you need. UNIQ is open to students studying in their first year of further education, who are based at UK state schools/colleges.

Students make a single application between December and January and can be selected to participate in either UNIQ Spring and Summer or UNIQ Digital.

#### [Join our UNIQ 2021 mailing list here](#)



## USEFUL WEBSITES



**allabout™**  
schoolleavers.co.uk

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's why it's important to start finding out about all of the different industries you can enter.

**[More information can be found here](#)**

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, support social mobility.

Access Accountancy exists to ensure that everyone has an equal chance of accessing the accountancy profession based on merit, not background.

**[More Information](#)**



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 high apprenticeship or sponsored degrees. TARGET careers helps school leavers make decisions about their future and offers information guides to parents.

**[Visit website](#)**  
**[Parents Page](#)**