

WIDENING PARTICIPATION NEWSLETTER

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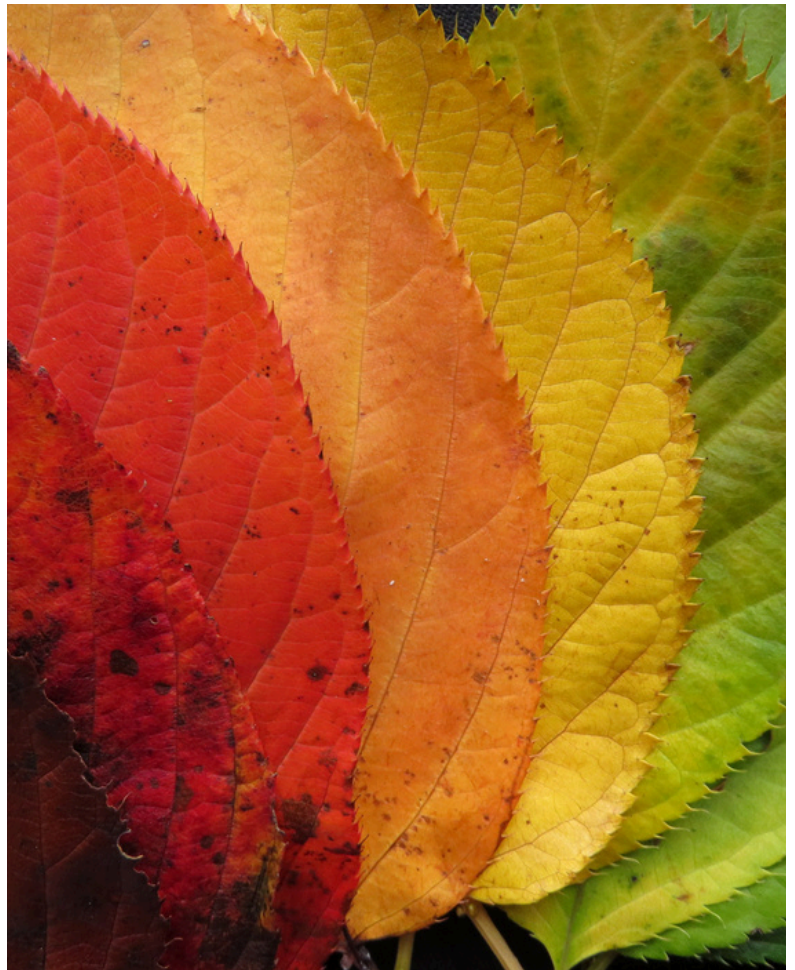
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INTRODUCTION

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.

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.

Please also be aware that some of the closing dates of the events are fast approaching, so don't delay, read today!



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 including first in the immediate family to consider university, specific postcodes, young carers and a variety of other factors.

Our WP programme is intended to support students to make informed choices about their options when they leave BHASVIC, including investigating the possibility of moving on to university. This could be something they wish to consider in the future, if not right now.

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

We work closely with our local partners – the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, UCA and Into University, with each university's WP scheme having their own, usually similar, eligibility criteria. This enables 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 other education providers and organisations who are offering taster days as well as careers information and support.

We have identified eligible students so we can signpost them to various support services.

If a student is eligible for the Into University programme, then they will be sent a link to complete. This scheme has a smaller cohort than the universities and eligible students will be given the opportunity to register.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE BHASVIC WEBSITE



OUR PARTNER UNIVERSITIES



University of Brighton

***Outreach
Brighton***

The University of Brighton offers a range of events and talks for college and sixth form students, parents and carers. We provide opportunities to students from backgrounds under-represented in higher education to support their progression to university.

What does the widening participation programme include?

We offer events and activities including:

- taster lectures, workshops and campus tours
- summer schools
- one-to-one support with writing personal statements
- help in preparing for interviews
- advice and seminars on applications, entry requirements, finance
- advice on the wide range of university courses
- updates on upcoming events and visits
- A chance to apply for **Brighton Boost**

These activities aim to provide impartial information, advice and guidance to students making decisions about higher education.

We will contact BHASVIC students to invite them to participate if they wish to do so, and benefit from the activities and support on offer.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[EVENTS](#)



OUR PARTNER UNIVERSITIES & ORGANISATIONS



Embrace your inner creative and develop your passion into a successful career with UCA. Discover our specialist creative degrees taught in Canterbury, Epsom, and Farnham. Vibrant campuses. Get industry ready.

UCA provide talks and workshops – Introduction to UCA, Creative careers, portfolio workshops, UCAS personal statement sessions and campus visits can be arranged. More information will follow throughout the year.

[**Events**](#)



Into University

Like the universities, Into University offer support for students thinking about going into higher education through years 12 and 13. In the past, we have run many events and opportunities, including support for those students wishing to apply for Oxbridge and also a fantastic **3-week paid work experience opportunity called Big City, Bright Future** for Year 13's. Those students that are eligible will have been invited to join by email.

[**More Information**](#)

[**Registration Form**](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Surrey Scholars is the award-winning sustained programme of extracurricular outreach from the University of Surrey for students in Years 9 to 13.

As a Surrey Scholar, learners receive support with GCSE and Post-16 study in addition to advice and guidance towards progression into higher education and beyond.

Scholars will receive priority status to attend our flagship programmes, as well as exclusive access to online and on campus events.

All Surrey Scholars are eligible to receive a reduced entry requirement when applying to study at the University of Surrey



Belong at Birmingham is the newest strand of our **Pathways to Birmingham programmes** running at the University since 2000. Belong at Birmingham supports students from backgrounds currently underrepresented within higher education in learning more about university-level study.

In the pilot year of 2024/25, we are limiting applications to Belong at Birmingham to eligible students who attend one of our 40 identified Belong at Birmingham partner schools and colleges.

The programme is open for students who will be in the final year of studying for A level or equivalent qualifications in the academic year 2024/25.

Completing the programme will bring you many benefits including an alternative offer and funding. We encourage you to explore our programme information and eligibility criteria. If you meet the eligibility, we hope you consider applying. Applications for the programme are open. **All applicants must submit their application by 30 November.**

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



University of
Nottingham

AMBITION: 16-18

Ambition is a free, two-year scheme for all Year 12 students and Year 1 vocational students from anywhere in the UK. The programme takes place online although there may be an opportunity to visit campus at some point during the programme. Applications are now open until Sunday 1st December 2024, the programme events will begin in January 2025.

The activities support progression and application to a university of your choice. Examples of past activities:

- Subject taster sessions with university academics
- Q&A's with current students
- Information on how to choose your course and university, student finance and accommodation
- Advice and guidance on university selection processes

Is it for you?

This programme is designed to provide you with more information about university and help you make the decision on the right course and university for you.

You must be studying in the first term of your level 3 qualifications. These may be A-

levels, BTECs, International Baccalaureate or equivalent that would allow progression onto university.

The programme is open to students who are wishing to study a range of different subjects. We will aim to provide a range of arts, social sciences, health care and science information however, we will not be able to cover all subject areas through our events.

Applications are now open until Sunday 1st December 2024.

MORE INFORMATION

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES



ASPIRING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

The Aspiring Professionals Programme (APP) is carefully designed to open up professions for those with the ability to join them in the future, but without the means or networks to get there.

We aim to give young people a real insight into top professions and to provide them with the skills needed to achieve their aspirations. We offer support through our four pillars:

- Mentoring by a professional via email
- Tailored skills sessions and career workshops
- University application support and guidance
- Internships with top employers

Students complete one application to the APP but the strand they are on and therefore how they receive our four pillars of support depends on where they live.

MORE INFORMATION

Applications are open now for A1 students and usually close in December (exact date to be confirmed)

This is a fantastic opportunity so please visit the website to check your eligibility.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



ACCESS TO LEEDS SCHEME

Access to Leeds is our contextual admissions programme for UK undergraduate applicants. It offers additional consideration for applicants based on their personal circumstances.

If you join us through Access to Leeds, you will benefit from:

- the chance to study an undergraduate degree with entry requirements up to two grades lower than our standard offer. For example if the standard entry requirement for your course is AAA at A-level, the Access to Leeds offer could be ABB.
- a study module, support and events to help prepare you for university
- on-course support through our [Plus Programme](#)
- additional consideration if you apply for a means-tested scholarship.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Health Sciences Outreach

The Health Sciences Outreach Team deliver outreach and widening participation activities on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine and Health, at the University of Leeds. Representing a wide range of undergraduate programmes, the team works alongside current students and academics to provide an extensive range of talks, workshops and subject taster sessions, aimed at raising the aspirations of students, inspiring them to pursue a career in healthcare through university education.

Our activities raise awareness of the various healthcare professions available and support students at every stage of applying to higher education, with events taking place both at the University of Leeds and in schools and colleges nationwide. Many of our activities are targeted, so that we reach and support those students who are underrepresented at university in our subject areas, aligning with our Access and Participation Plan commitments to the Office for Students

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

Newcastle University- Partners Programme



MORE INFORMATION

The PARTNERS programme has been running since the year 2000 and is one of the most well-established supported entry routes to higher education of its kind. Over 9,000 students have studied at Newcastle University via the PARTNERS Programme. It offers a range of support and opportunities to help you make a successful application to Newcastle University.

Through the PARTNERS Programme you could:

- Receive a lower contextual offer to Newcastle University.
- Attend the PARTNERS Academic Summer School.
- Develop skills necessary to be a successful student.
- Meet other students and increase your confidence.
- Receive support through the application process, on results day and after entering the university.



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

The Sutton Trust Programmes



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.

Pathway to Law

Pathway to Consulting

Pathway to Engineering

Pathway to Medicine

Pathway to Banking and Finance

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

THE SUTTON TRUST US PROGRAMME

The Sutton Trust Fulbright US Programme is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore what studying in the US is like. It will give you a taste of what it's like being an international student in the US and help you see if it could be the right fit for you.

It's a fully-funded programme so we'll cover all costs, including travel, residential events, accommodation and food.

- **Applications for the 2025 programme are open until 11:59p.m. on Tuesday, 14th January.**
- September 2025 Fulbright's USA College Day is the largest US college fair in Europe. You'll receive a VIP pass to access the admissions officers at the fair before anyone else.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



Contextual offers take social and economic factors that may have prevented you from reaching your true academic potential into account.

We know that some students face significant barriers during their journey to university. Contextual offers promote fairness and diversity in our community of talented students.

With a contextual offer, UK students can receive a reduced offer of up to three grades below our typical entry requirements. You'll apply to York via UCAS and our admissions team will review your application.

York has a widening participation programme, if you've taken part in that tell us in your UCAS application as it's one of the criteria we use to make decisions on contextual offers.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[WP PROGRAMMES](#)

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.

Sign up for emails so additions to the website go straight to your inbox.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



**Northumbria
University
NEWCASTLE**

Destination Northumbria is a programme designed to provide valuable resources, guidance and a strong support network to help develop the skills and knowledge to prepare for undergraduate study.

A structured scheme to support students with the transition to studying at university.

- Get involved in social events
- Connect with other Destination Northumbria students
- Opportunities for mentoring with current students
- Attend on campus events to familiarise yourself with the university
- Meet our student support teams
- Attend webinars providing information and guidance
- Gain 8 Destination Northumbria points (Points equivalent to UCAS tariff points when applying to Northumbria University. Cannot be used in conjunction with Contextual Offers or extenuating circumstances)

MORE INFORMATION

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

STAART
Initiative



UNIVERSITY of
GREENWICH

STAART is a disability focused initiative at the University of Greenwich. It was developed in 2007 in partnership with Aimhigher. We provide impartial information and guidance to post-16 future and current disabled students. We continue to develop to meet the requirements of disabled students.

STAART provides an online workshop once a month which are advertised via the STAART Facebook and LinkedIn.

The following workshops are available for *disabled post-16s considering university. The workshops can be delivered on campus, schools/colleges or virtually. All of the workshops are interactive utilising Mentimeter software and are 90 minutes long. There is also time for Q&A at each session. A bespoke report is created each time a workshop is delivered.

There are several ways to access STAART support and our community.

- Social media
- Follow our Facebook or Twitter accounts for news and information or to talk to us and fellow students.
- About our social channels

Transition days

- Attend a transition day before term starts to get a tour of the campus and library and meet our STAART Ambassadors.
- Latest articles

Events

- Come and meet our ambassadors at the STAART desk at Open Days and applicant events.

STAART Bulletins

Our bulletins contain useful information, celebrations, STAART events, University of Greenwich events, STAART ART Competitions, new technology, etc. You can request receiving the Bulletins by emailing M.Thorley@gre.ac.uk, putting 'request bulletin' in the subject line.

Newsletters

MORE INFORMATION

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



THE UNITE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Having somewhere of your own to call home matters. With the Unite Foundation scholarship, you'll have accommodation and bills covered for up to 3 years of study. That includes all through the holidays too, so you don't have to wonder where to go during Christmas or summer. You can even stay the summer after you graduate to plan your next move. The Unite Foundation team will help you settle in, keep in touch and offer opportunities for employment and enjoyment.

Applications open on 1st January 2025.

You can apply for the scholarship if you're:

1. 25 or under
2. A statutory care leaver, care experienced (Scotland), or estranged from your family
3. Starting or studying your first undergraduate degree
4. Eligible for UK home fee status
5. Applying to one of the Unite Foundation's partner universities (see 'Where you can study')

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES



PwC Virtual Classroom

At PwC, we're focused on helping you to achieve your full potential. Whether you already have an application in progress with us, or just want to learn more about PwC, there's something for everyone in our Virtual Classroom programme.

Focussed on a particular topic, the Virtual Classroom sessions run as a series of events providing students, parents and teachers alike a true insight into PwC. Targeted at students in Years 10-13 (Years 11-14 in Northern Ireland, S3-S6 in Scotland), you'll have the opportunity to learn about who PwC are, what we do, and our opportunities as well as ask questions of our recent Flying Start and School and College Leaver joiners.

We also have a wide range of other resources, such as our Employability Hub, a wide range of YouTube videos and our Back to Schools recordings to access at a time that suits you.

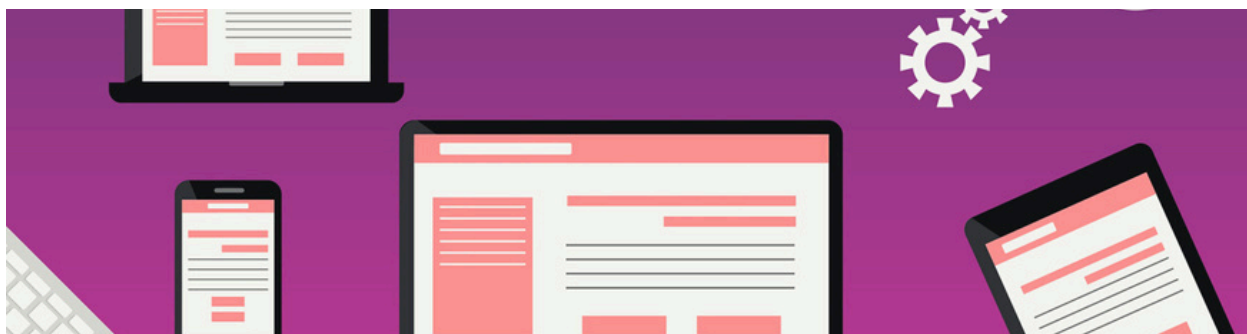
Upcoming events include:

Looking ahead to your career options: Apprenticeships.

Discover Technology at PwC.

Looking ahead to your career options: Degree programmes

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



USEFUL WEBSITES



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.

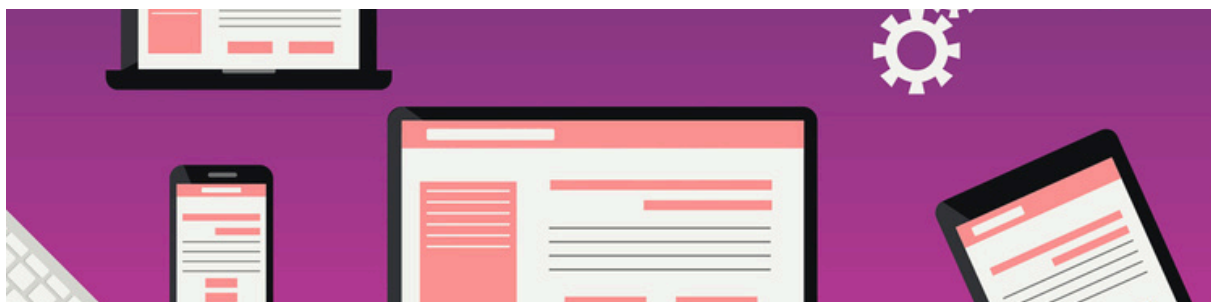
MORE INFORMATION

Access Accountancy is a movement for change across the accountancy profession. Accountancy firms, organisations and professional bodies in the sector have committed to delivering real change by welcoming talented and ambitious young people to the profession from all backgrounds.

They recognise that **work experience placements** are a great opportunity to learn more about the accountancy profession. A number of employers have signed up and committed to offering work experience placements where you'll get to explore what the day-to-day life of an accountant is like, while also gaining new skills and enjoying new experiences.



MORE INFORMATION



USEFUL WEBSITES CONTINUED



Amazing Apprenticeships

As a parent or carer, you want to be able to guide and advise your child towards the best opportunity for them. So, where do you start?

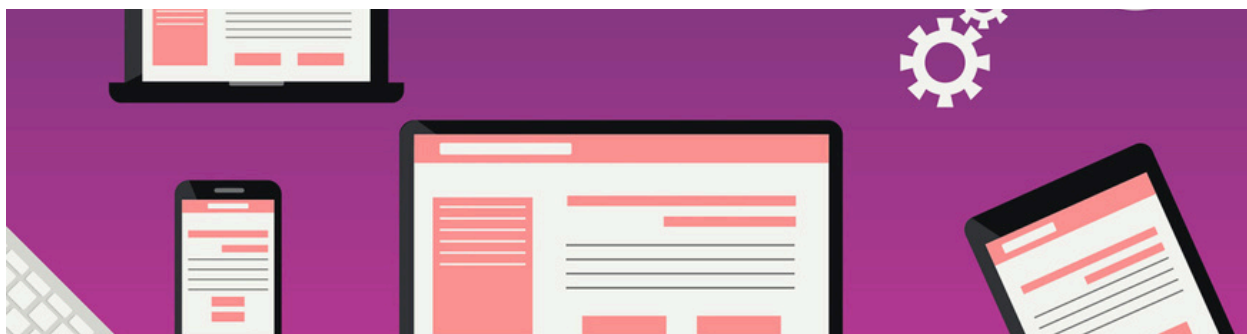
There are many options available including apprenticeships, T Levels and HTQs.

Being open-minded about the range of opportunities, and equipping yourself with knowledge and information is the best way to build your confidence, and ultimately to support your child to make the best decision for them.

Through this Parent Zone, we aim to help you to explore those options.

PARENT & CARER ZONE

EXPLORE THE OPTIONS TO SUPPORT AND ADVISE YOUR CHILD



PERSONAL STATEMENT HUBS



University of Brighton

The University of Brighton is delighted to be able to offer one-to-one personal statement support for students of our partner colleges.

Please note you will need to be able to access Microsoft Teams to be able to attend the meeting. This can be accessed through a browser or by downloading the Microsoft Teams app.

BOOK HERE



**UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH**

Ready to show your chosen university why you're the perfect candidate for the course? We've got you covered.

Your UCAS personal statement is uniquely yours. It's the story you tell when you apply to uni. But writing it can be tricky. There are things it needs to include and common mistakes to avoid.

Watch videos, get top tips and download our help sheets – that's what our personal statement hub is for. It's for you to write your story, so you can show your strengths, ideas and passion to your chosen universities.

You'll also be able send us your draft, so you can get feedback and feel confident about what you've written.

MORE INFORMATION