






**Engaging pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds:
 Examples of best practice**




Russell Group universities work extensively with local schools and colleges to identify and harness potential in pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who have shown potential to succeed on one of our courses. These programmes attempt to instil aspirations to enter higher education and to dispel myths of research-intensive universities. They also provide academic enhancement, information, advice and guidance and often will work with teachers and parents to ensure that these key role models are well advised about higher education particularly with regard to the application process.

<p>University of Birmingham</p> 	<p>Working with the Universities of <i>Manchester</i> and <i>Nottingham</i> with the support of The Sutton Trust and Goldman Sachs, the Academic Enrichment Programme identifies high-achieving state school or college pupils, with at least 7 A*-C GCSEs, in year 12 from disadvantaged backgrounds. The universities then provide a free year-long programme to develop the skills that will help the participants succeed in their A-levels as well as on-going guidance about higher education. The programme provides university student Ambassadors to aid in mentoring, academic enrichment and to provide a university role model. The aim is to support these pupils' progression into higher education through hands-on support.</p>
<p>University of Bristol</p> 	<p>Higher Education Summer School (HESS): HESS, working with local schools and Aimhigher South West, seeks out year 11 pupils who have the potential to go on to higher education but for a variety of reasons may be under-performing in school or may be in danger of not applying to university. Summer school participants are introduced to a number of subjects through lectures, tutorials and project work. They also have</p>

	<p>the chance to interact with university staff and students and spend a fully-funded week on the university campuses.</p> <p>The University has also run a Sutton Trust Summer School for the last 10 years which works with academically gifted year 12 pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have 5 A*-C GCSEs from schools with a low progression to higher education. These schools are also run at the Universities of <i>Cambridge, Nottingham and Oxford</i>.</p>
<p>University of Cambridge</p> 	<p>GEEMA (the Group to Encourage Ethnic Minority Applications) has been running for nearly 20 years and works to encourage ethnic minority pupils to apply to Cambridge as well as working with schools and local authorities to identify students with the potential to succeed. The programme runs free summer schools, open days, school and college visits for students in years 8-10. It also works closely with the students' union's Target Campaign, which organises open days, visits and a shadowing scheme to enable prospective high-ability applicants to meet current students and find out what Cambridge is really like from a student perspective.</p>
<p>Cardiff University</p> 	<p>The National Mentoring Project allows Cardiff students to work on a one-to-one basis with five school pupils each throughout the school year. The aim of the project is to improve GCSE grades and to increase awareness of higher education. Participants can then link in with the Step-Up to Health Compact Scheme, which operates over 3 years starting in year 11 for students who have expressed and demonstrated achievement of their ability to succeed in health course. It gives pupils a number of opportunities to learn about health professions through summer schools, mentorship and a conference on applying to university.</p>
<p>University of Edinburgh</p> 	<p>Pathways to the Professions works with state schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians to encourage progression by under-represented students into professional courses in medicine, veterinary medicine and law. Working with state schools, families and professional bodies, the project seeks out able year 10/11 students and informs them, their parents and teachers of the</p>

	<p>requirements for entry into these courses, as well as practice interview sessions, application help and academic enrichment.</p> <p><i>Pathways to Law</i> has been extended to five other universities across the country, including the Universities of <i>Leeds, Manchester, Southampton, Warwick</i> and the <i>London School of Economics & Political Science</i>.</p>
<p>University of Glasgow</p> 	<p>The GOALS (Greater Opportunity of Access and Learning with Schools) provides a continuum of opportunity for school pupils from ages 10 to 18, targeting schools with low participation in higher education. The last step of the programme is 'Top-Up' which focuses on those year 11/12 pupils who are considering applying to higher education and helps them to make informed choices about their future. The programme provides a portfolio of work that is graded for when they apply to university.</p>
<p>Imperial College London</p> 	<p>The Gifted & Talented Science Summer School seeks out bright year 11 pupils from London state schools to give them a chance to take part in a residential summer school with variety of science and laboratory project, aiming to raise aspirations and encourage bright young people to apply to university. Students are identified through the Young Gifted & Talented programme.</p>
<p>King's College London</p> 	<p>Access to Medicine works to enable young people from eligible areas to study at medical school, health service or biomedical sciences. This is done through a mentoring scheme in which current medical students encourage local sixth formers who have the potential to enter a career in medicine to apply to the <i>Extended Medical Degree Programme</i>. EMDP is a six year medical degree programme for students from disadvantaged backgrounds in targeted inner London boroughs.</p>
<p>University of Leeds</p>  <p>UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS</p>	<p>Reach for Excellence identifies and supports school pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who demonstrate the potential to access leading research-intensive universities through GCSE attainment and predicted A-level grades. Impartial pre-entry guidance, sessions for parents/carers,</p>

	<p>subject specific content, transferable skills and information and assistance on the transition from A-level to higher education study are provided.</p>
<p>University of Liverpool</p> 	<p>The Liverpool Scholars Scheme is targeted programme for year 12 pupils with the ability to succeed at research-intensive universities as identified by schools and the pupils' prior attainment. Scholars are given advice and support to help with gaining a place at university. On successful completion of the project, applicants are given the equivalent of up to 40 UCAS points towards entry. Becoming a Scholar also gives young people the maximum financial bursary from the University, as well as aiding in the transition between further and higher education.</p>
<p>London School of Economics</p> 	<p>LSE CHOICE works closely with local schools and college in an aim to identify the most talented young people from London state schools in order to give them the tools they need to successfully apply to leading universities. The programme provides Saturday morning sessions and a summer school for 180 pupils per year from non-traditional backgrounds to raise aspirations to higher education.</p>
<p>University of Oxford</p> 	<p>The Oxford Young Ambassador Programme is a four-year programme for pupils from under-represented backgrounds with the potential to go on to study at the University, as identified through prior achievement in poor-performing schools with little history of pupil progression to Oxbridge. It provides participants with the opportunity to become an Ambassador for higher education through full day sessions and the opportunity to stay in Oxford's Colleges. They also work closely with Oxford students through a variety of personal development exercises. They can then tell their fellow pupils about what they have learned. Participation in the scheme is considered in the contextual information that the University takes into account during the admissions process.</p>

<p>University of Sheffield</p> 	<p>Sheffield's Outreach and Access to Medicine Scheme (SOAMS) Is a successful programme targeting students from disadvantaged backgrounds into professional academic fields. Pupils are identified in year 9 that could benefit from such a programme by schools and teachers. For five subsequent years, pupils are supported and guided in numerous activities and programmes that will raise their aspirations towards higher education. Students who complete the scheme are eligible for a guaranteed interview at Sheffield's School of Medicine.</p> <p>The University works closely with all local schools in identifying pupils with the potential to succeed on their courses. Schools may recommend applicants through the Compact Scheme for students who deserve special consideration. Admissions Tutors will then consider these applicants' individual circumstances during the admissions process.</p>
<p>University of Southampton</p> 	<p>FE2HE Summer Universities are designed to identify and nurture year 12/13 students in local further education colleges and sixth forms interested in pursuing careers in health and social care. Pupils are identified by their college based on a number of factors, such as parental experience of higher education and school attainment. Academic sessions give pupils the chance to get 'hands-on' experience, find out about the qualifications required to gain entry to university programmes in these specific fields and learn about the careers that are available thereafter. It also provides many social activities to make participants feel comfortable on the university campus and to make new friends.</p>
<p>University of Warwick</p> 	<p>Goal at Warwick is designed to target gifted and talented students, as identified by schools and local authorities, from families with no experience of higher education to provide four years of support from years 10-13. The programme provides residential days at the university, personal mentoring support, development opportunities with local businesses, access to Warwick's distance</p>

	learning opportunities as well as guidance on applying to the university.
<p>Young, Gifted & Talented</p>  <p>YOUNG GIFTED & TALENTED</p>	<p>Many Russell Group universities work with school pupils through the Young Gifted and Talented (YG&T) programme to provide information, advice and guidance as well as to aid in the progression to higher education. The University of Cambridge is a partner in the 'East Excellence Hub'; the University of Nottingham is a member of the East Midlands Excellence Hub; Universities of Liverpool and Manchester in the North West Hub; Universities of Birmingham and Warwick in the West Midlands; and Universities of Leeds and Sheffield in the Yorkshire & Humberside Hub.</p>