

### **Examples of links between Russell Group universities and local schools and colleges**

The Russell Group's deep-rooted commitment to improving the life chances of those from under-represented backgrounds in higher education can be seen in the variety of projects linking our universities to local schools and colleges. The following are some examples of best practice from Russell Group universities in partnering with local schools and colleges in an effort to raise aspirations, improve attainment and widen participation further.

#### **University College London**

- **Sponsoring an academy in Camden.** UCL runs a broad programme of activities with local schools in Camden, including student mentoring, masterclasses, and talks by UCL staff. The **UCL Academy** will provide opportunities for the university staff to have a more targeted involvement with a school and new models for collaboration that can be rolled out to other schools.
- UCL already has a strong link with City & Islington Sixth Form College through its **Partnership for Excellence**. Successful activities include: targeted one-off lectures or masterclasses, designed to stimulate pupils' interest in an unfamiliar subject area; regular lectures or seminars which build on pupils' work in the classroom; summer schools and access to university facilities (for example, laboratories, libraries, museums and art collections)
- The **UCL Science Centre** has a weekly programme of lectures during term-time on a wide range of scientific topics delivered by distinguished speakers and aimed at Sixth Form pupils in the local area.

#### **University of Nottingham**

- The University of Nottingham is co-sponsoring the **Samworth Academy**, which opened in autumn 2009 in the Bilborough area. The University is developing the Academy as a Health and Science specialist. It aims to raise aspirations, instill confidence and curiosity in pupils and build healthier communities.
- Student volunteers are placed in local primary schools to support children with their reading through the **Time to Read** programme. Volunteers work with a small number of pupils on an individual basis, listening to them read, discussing the reading and playing literacy games.

- Through the **School Governors** programme, students can apply to be a 'Governor' for primary and secondary schools in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and surrounding counties. Governors work in partnership with head teachers to help raise pupil achievement and provide information, advice and guidance on higher education.

### University of Bristol

- **The Merchants' Academy** is the new 11-19 school co-sponsored by the University of Bristol. The Academy will be comprehensive in intake and will provide a high level of extra-curricular activities. Strong links with the University and businesses in the City will also provide unique learning opportunities for students. The goal is to establish a school that will cater for over 900 pupils and provide a strong focus on learning and achievement.

### University of Liverpool

- The University of Liverpool is co-sponsoring the **North Liverpool Academy**, providing investment as well as services that include professional development for staff, summer schools for students and bursaries. Granada Learning will also provide the Academy with books and curriculum software.
- The **Professor Fluffy** programme in the Greater Merseyside area runs from primary to post-16 students in addition to providing information and guidance to parents and adults in order to encourage participation in higher education. The three-step model includes an interactive Professor Fluffy's Education Adventure website, curriculum themed visit to a local further or higher education institution and evaluation sessions.
- **Champions of Learning** enables year 10 students to become role-models to their peers and to younger age groups through a range of activities and projects, aimed at increasing student aspiration and encouraging participation in higher education. This is in addition to conferences, team-building and school trips sponsored by the University of Liverpool.

### University of Warwick

- The University of Warwick is working in partnership with five local Midlands Schools as they move to Trust status and the Grace Academy Coventry. This follows the University's commitment to supporting the **Trust Schools Programme** made in the new University Strategy. Warwick has built and will continue to develop long-standing relationships with local schools and colleges.

## University of Birmingham

- **Back2Schoolz** at the University of Birmingham links students with five local schools in order to read with refugees, assist in classrooms, run storytelling workshops, help with literacy and numeracy or even start a choir (as two students are planning to do). The University also runs numerous sporting activities such as **Local Leagues**, which provide student football coaches; the Coach Education Programme, and **Fit 4 Fun**, where local schools come to the University to take part in sporting events.
- **Access to Birmingham (A2B)**: This scheme applies to students from a state school or college in the greater West Midlands area that has signed up to the programme with the Outreach Office. Students can receive an alternative entry offer to the University by completing the A2B Higher Education Learning Module (HELM), which is designed to help students make the transition from school to university. The HELM has three elements: online study support and writing skills, student shadowing, essay specific to course applied for.
- The **Hasborne Academy** will open in September 2010 and will be a four-form entry secondary school plus a sixth form and will have mathematics and health as specialist subject areas. The University of Birmingham will be working closely with the academy to raise attainment and aspirations of students into these key subjects.

## University of Cambridge

- The University of Cambridge's **Links with Academies** provides educational leadership to academies in London in specific subjects. The University is currently working with: St. Paul's Academy, Greenwich, Petchey Academy, Hackney, and Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney. These three academies, in challenging socio-economic educational environments, have now started to offer Latin.
- The **Oxbridge Conferences** allows the universities of Cambridge and Oxford to organise large subject-focused conferences at venues throughout the country. Aimed at year 12 and first-year college students, the Oxbridge Conferences provide up-to-date information on the application and admissions procedures at both institutions, as well as providing an interesting insight into the courses available and student life. Academic staff, Oxford Colleges Admissions Office staff and current undergraduates from both universities are on hand to answer students.
- Cambridge is now the lead institution for the '**Excellence East**' **Excellence Hub**, offering a range of projects for students aged 4-19 from all backgrounds who have been identified as gifted and/or talented. Activities are coordinated by a full time member of the university's Widening Participation Team who is happy to help organise and publicise suitable activities.

- The majority of undergraduate Colleges at Cambridge are linked to a Local Authority (LA) or groups of LAs. Through the **Cambridge Colleges Area Link Schemes**, each College, working on behalf of all Colleges, aims to develop long-term aspiration raising programmes within their designated areas. For example, St John's College is twinned with the London Borough of Lambeth and through the EAGLE project, the College provides extra tuition in the classrooms as well as information and advice during College visits.

### **Cardiff University**

- **Cardiff University's Step up Compact Scheme** aims to motivate young people in years 11-13 to develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes and work experience appropriate for entry into university. The programme promotes the skills of students in targeted schools in South East Wales that are currently underrepresented in higher education, so they are better equipped to succeed at university interviews.
- The **National Mentoring Project** is built upon the National Mentoring Pilot Programme. Currently, Cardiff hires 72 students to mentor 360 year 10 pupils in 8 Cardiff Schools. Students work on a one-to-one basis from September through to April in order to improve GCSE grades and to increase awareness of higher education. This is also part of Wales' 'Reaching Wider' partnership between higher education institutions and schools in South East Wales.
- The **Women in Engineering** programme brings 140 year 10 girls from schools across southeast Wales to attend activities at the schools of physics and engineering. The event is aimed at raising awareness of engineering opportunities for women.

### **University of Edinburgh**

- The **Pathways to the Professions** project gives information and guidance to state school students in Edinburgh and the Lothians interested in studying Law, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine. This project works with schools, families and students to give them all the information they need to progress to higher education, such as advice on applications, career exploration, visits to courts or hospitals and more.
- The **Educated Pass** scheme targets local boys from underrepresented backgrounds by giving them the opportunity to play football while educating them on what higher education and the University of Edinburgh can provide. The aim is to give strong mentoring through sport.

## University of Glasgow

- **The GOALS Project** (Greater Opportunity of Access and Learning with Schools) provides a continuum of opportunities for school pupils from ages 10 to 18 to learn about higher education. Targeted at schools in the local area with low rates of participation in higher education, the project aims to encourage pupils towards achievement at school, progression to higher education, completion of their degree course and a rewarding career.
- The **Top-Up** programme is the final element of the GOALS project. This has been designed to help school pupils who are planning to enter higher education, or considering that option, prepare for the transition and to make informed choices about their futures.

## Imperial College London.

- **Inspire (“Innovative Scheme for Post-docs in Research and Education”)** is sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline. It allows post-doctoral research assistants from science, engineering and medical related disciplines to be employed on two-year contracts at schools affiliated to the Specialist Schools Trust in or around London, as part of their bid to gain specialist science status. These post-doctoral researchers spend half their time in partner schools teaching the science curriculum while working towards qualified teacher status. The remainder of their time is spent doing research, as agreed with the university.
- **The Pimlico Connection**, which began in 1975 at Pimlico School, is a peer-tutoring scheme in which students and recent graduates can tutor once a week for a period of five months between October and March in 21 local primary and secondary schools. Between 80 and 100 students volunteer every year. In 2003, the Citigroup Foundation pledged to fund at least 15 bursaries worth £1,500 each for Pimlico Connection volunteers who are in financial need.
- **Science and Engineering Ambassadors** are undergraduate students who help tutor and provide role-models for school students in and around London. Students who take part in this scheme receive official accreditation from the university. Imperial also provides master classes, science clubs, undergraduate level training for A-Level students, career advice, science conferences and student visits to university research laboratories.
- The **METRIC** programme helps students who are under-prepared mathematically to progress successfully to higher education. This initiative, which builds on the first project started in 1993, offers interactive web-based courses in mathematics to all students who are judged to need assistance, whatever their social and educational background.

## King's College London

- Working with targeted schools in inner London boroughs, King's College offers an **Extended Medical Degree Programme (EMDP)**, a six year degree programme launched in 2001 to encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to become doctors. Places on the programme are offered to talented pupils with the potential to succeed in medicine but without the predicted A-Level grades required for the standard medical programme.
- Through the College's **Shine** programme, more than one hundred student volunteers help to raise aspirations and achievements of children in various London schools.
- The **Star** programme provides homework support to children of families seeking refuge or asylum in London who are moving from primary to secondary school.

## University of Leeds

- Student teachers spend 15 days throughout the year teaching their specialty subject and aiding with classroom curriculum through the **Student Associates Scheme**. A quarter of the students' time is spent working on widening participation activities including giving talks to raise awareness of higher education. Students who take part receive a tax-free bursary of £600. This programme aims to recruit one hundred students each year with priority given to those in mathematics and science.
- **The Access Academy** provides a range of opportunities for students and staff to volunteer on educational projects in schools, colleges and study support centres across Leeds. An average of 400 volunteers participate every year in a range of exciting projects with young people such as tutoring, mentoring, language support and assisting with sports, arts, and out of school activities

## London School of Economics

- The **LSE's Student Shadowing Scheme** aims at widening participation from state schools and colleges across the UK. This is in addition to LSE's summer school and student tutoring programme, targeting local London schools. Students considering applying to LSE or who have applied are matched with a current student ambassador in their prospective course of study. The ambassadors guide prospective students, giving them one-on-one support during the application process and providing them with advice afterwards. This allows students from state schools and colleges to have a partner throughout the process and to encourage them to enter higher education.

## University of Manchester

- **Students in Schools** is an umbrella programme for various student guidance initiatives. For example, University Student Ambassadors volunteer as mentors in local primary and secondary schools in and around Manchester. Students also assist in giving campus tours, for which they are paid, help in awareness days, represent Manchester at various off-campus recruitment sessions and give presentations to various schools and colleges, offering guidance and advice.
- The **Manchester Gold** programme offers one-to-one mentoring for school and college students in and around Manchester. University students undertake a two-day accredited mentoring training course and are matched with pupils from local schools or colleges. Mentoring takes place in the pupils' school or college, for half an hour each week over a 10-12 week period

## University of Oxford

- One student is chosen from the 100 schools that have never sent an application to Oxford or Cambridge to participate in the **Oxford Access Scheme**. The students chosen will participate in an 'ABC Summer school' (year 10), a teambuilding residential (year 11) and a shadowing programme and Personal Development summer school (year 12). They are also invited to attend a UCAS form conference and interview training days (year 13) as well as various one-day events of cultural interest. These students then serve as the Oxford Access Scheme's Ambassadors to their schools, helping to spread information about the Scheme and to encouraging their peers to get involved.
- The University of Oxford works closely with Aimhigher, running workshops, curriculum enrichment programmes and summer schools, as well as long-term programmes such as working with looked-after children. An example is the **Oxford-Dudley Partnership Project**, which aims to encourage higher aspirations and attainment among secondary school students within the Dudley local authority, an identified area of economic disadvantage. The project aims to increase the aspirations of students in year 9 and above to go on to further and higher education in general and to enrich the school curriculum.

## Newcastle University

- The **PARTNERS** programme at Newcastle University began in 1999 as a programme for state schools and colleges in Tyneside and Northumberland. It aims to increase the aspirations of students from disadvantaged backgrounds and provide a supported entry route into university. University student volunteers who participate in PARTNERS' give talks in schools and colleges on course choices, completing UCAS forms and student shadowing.

- The **Students into Schools** programme provides over 900 students each year in 200 local schools to work as tutors alongside teachers. These ten-week placements give students valuable skills and enhance their employability. The University has also recently introduced an academic module for student tutoring, student support for widening participation and student management in community organizations.

## University of Sheffield

- The **University of Sheffield's Outreach and Access Scheme (SOAS)**, is a successful programme targeting students from disadvantaged backgrounds in and around Sheffield to consider professional academic fields in which they are currently under-represented: specifically medicine, accountancy, architecture, journalism and law. Through the **Schools Programme**, 270 students volunteer in 38 local schools benefiting 1250 pupils.
- Students in years 11 and 12 at selected regional schools are invited to take part in the **Professions Progression Partnership**. This partnership includes activities and talks over a seven-month period where people working with professional bodies and university staff members volunteer to talk to school students and give presentations. Students interested in studying law, for example, have sat through cases being tried in the Sheffield Law Courts. These prospective students also met with current university students to hear about specific courses and degrees.
- The **Sheffield's Outreach and Access to Medicine Scheme (SOAMS)** trains 40 university students each year to provide clinical skills and health awareness sessions to year 8 students at 5 different secondary schools in deprived areas of Sheffield. Rotherham Outreach provides volunteer opportunities in Rotherham in the field of health and disability.