




WPO | ▶▶▶ **WIDENING
PARTICIPATION
AND OUTREACH**

**2023/24
Annual Report**





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Celebrating our achievements



The Widening Participation & Outreach Team received the Silver Innovation Award at the UK Social Mobility Awards 2023.

We are committed to supporting learners underrepresented within higher education to realise their aspirations while raising their attainment.

For over 12 years, our support and activity has evolved to ensure that eligible learners, both locally and nationally, are able to continue to overcome barriers into higher education and remain part of a connected community.

We are extremely proud that our receiving of the UK Social Mobility Silver Award is in recognition of our hybrid **Surrey Scholars** extracurricular programme, which combines on-campus and online experiences.

Furthermore, ahead of the new Access & Participation Plan, we are excited to have piloted 8 school programmes as part of our **Surrey STARS** School Partnerships – launching in October 2024.

This Annual Report showcases the sustained impact of our work in the area of social mobility, in addition a celebration all our activities over the past 12 months and first-hand individual stories from participants, contributors and supporters.



UK Social Mobility Awards

The University of Surrey... expanded its existing Widening Participation & Outreach Team, and launched a website and virtual learning environment to maximise the impact of face-to-face sessions.



Reaching Potential?

Advancing Social Mobility in 2022-23 Full Report

Scan Me

Download the **Reaching Potential?** full report



Our Surrey community

We support University of Surrey students into higher education and with part-time work during their studies. In2Surrey is a contextual-offer scheme, providing eligible applicants with an entry requirement reduction and transition support. The Student Ambassador scheme employs students to work on outreach and recruitment events to develop their skills in the workplace and to inspire future university applicants.



Supporting our students and applicants

Our contribution across the University of Surrey student population



Student Ambassadors meet **1 or more WP criteria***
*2023/24 HEAT data



Student Ambassadors **employed***
*HEAT data 2023/24



6000+

Student Ambassador **hours worked***
*2023/24 HEAT data



applicants expected to enrol at Surrey* following receipt of a contextual offer
*September 2024 University of Surrey admissions data



203

Transport bursaries awarded* for eligible applicants attending Open Days and Offer Holder Days
*Open Day / Offer Holder Day attendance and WPO tracking data



Eligible applicants registered* for the In2Surrey transition programme
*In2Surrey registration data 2023/24



Emily

After attending Open Days and taking part in the In2Surrey mentoring scheme, I wanted to apply to be a Student Ambassador... working in such a supportive environment allowed me to develop my transferable skills, which I apply in my role today.



Widening Participation Officer



Our impact

We track HE progression rates among participants who engaged in WPO activity before submitting their UCAS application.



7220

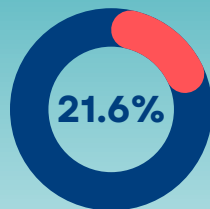
Outreach participants entered Higher Education*

*Tracked participants from 2018 to 2021 (HEAT-HESA data 2016-2021)



Approximately **9 in 10*** outreach participants graduated with a 1:1 or a 2:1 degree

*88% of tracked learners compared to 78% national average (HEAT-HESA data 2016-2021)



of outreach participants entered a High-Tariff HE provider within 2 years of expected entry* (compared to 13.4% national average)

*Tracked participants (HEAT-HESA data 2016-2021)



Jaime

I didn't know what I wanted to do after GCSEs. As a young carer, I attended a Summer School at the University of Surrey when I was in Year 9... It was the engineering activity that really stood out for me... I became aware that I could flourish in a practical environment which led to me applying for an apprenticeship when I left school... I am now working as an apprentice engineer where I am enjoying learning new skills and developing as an engineer... One day, I hope to inspire more females into engineering.



Advanced Apprenticeship

Scan Me

Read more about Emily's and Jaime's stories



Surrey Scholars

Surrey Scholars is our award-winning extracurricular programme for learners from Year 9 to Year 13, providing support with GCSEs and post-16 and post-18 education choices.



Our Scholars

A breakdown of our 2023/24 cohort

44%

eligible for Free School Meals



33%

participated in 2 or more Surrey Scholars activities



541

Active Scholars across Key Stages 4 & 5

*2023/24 WPO Activity Tracker data

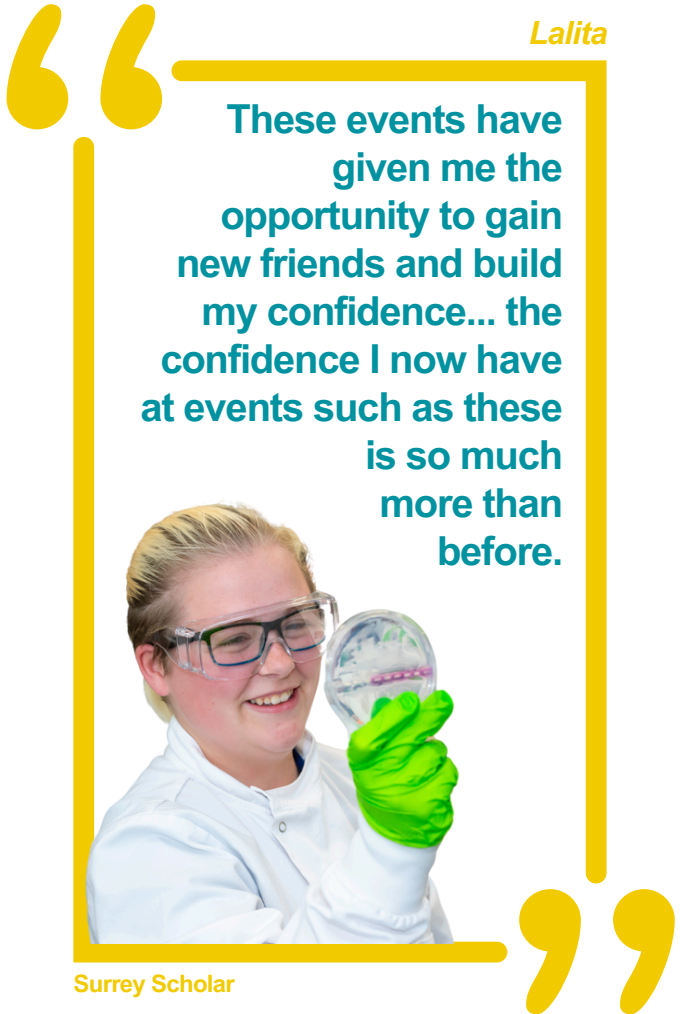


194

schools represented from across the UK

29%

eligible for 16-19 bursary



Lalita

These events have given me the opportunity to gain new friends and build my confidence... the confidence I now have at events such as these is so much more than before.

Surrey Scholar





Measuring impact

We evaluate Surrey Scholars activity through pre- and post-event surveys to measure knowledge and attitudinal outcomes toward HE amongst participants, capturing quantitative and qualitative data.

“ I would like to say a big thank you for providing this opportunity! The programme was delivered brilliantly & entailed lots of information. It was friendly & easy to understand. I'm very confident & feel less pressure to help my child as I know exactly where to find information.

Y9 Family Futures Supporter

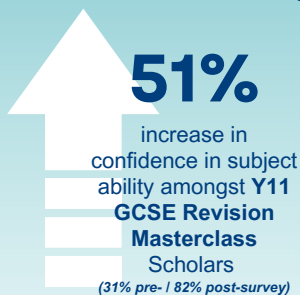
”



“ The programme was so useful in helping me feel ready and more comfortable going onto university!

AIM4University Scholar

”



AIM4University

72 Y13 and equivalent Scholars completed our sustained offering from September to November, providing impartial advice, information and mentoring towards completing their UCAS application. Through four means of engagement, participants joined live calls, engaged in 1:1 mentoring, accessed online resources and attended a campus visit. Participants responded with an increase in confidence towards writing their personal statement (+58%) with similar increases reported in awareness of the availability of financial (+48%) and pastoral support (+46%).

Y12 Summer Schools

We invited Scholars to attend a residential or virtual experience in July, specialising in a specific subject strand along with impartial advice and guidance towards applying for higher education. A total **149 Scholars attended the residential whilst 73 engaged throughout the virtual.** Participants increased their awareness of placement opportunities (+31%) and financial support (+32%) and improved confidence towards the transition into higher education (+27%).

Y11 GCSE Revision Masterclasses

Our hybrid GCSE preparation was completed by **99 Scholars** between October 2023 and February 2024. Through a mixture of in-person and online sessions in English and Maths, participants practised techniques that increased their awareness towards how to revise successfully (+43%) and how to apply their revision skills (+43%). Following the series, confidence in subject ability had demonstrated a significant increase (+51%).

Y10 Realise Your Potential

From January to March, **76 Scholars** attended our weekly Saturday series of on-campus workshops, careers webinars and revision masterclasses. All participants then presented their own reflections on their study pathways before the Graduation ceremony. Participants reported an increase in knowledge of what studying at university would be like (+33%) and an understanding of the skills required for studying at university (+16%). All participants stated that they now know where to find information about university (+37%).

Y9 Family Futures

From January to March, **44 Scholars** and their households completed our collaborative programme encouraging families to identify and discuss study pathways together. Consisting of campus visits, weekly online activity and a home pack, participants were able to try something new and reflect on their own learning preferences. At the celebration event, all in attendance shared that they understood the different educational pathways available to them in the future (+45%). Confidence in making decisions about their future increased (+37%) and confidence in their own ability to pursue goals and aspirations also increased (+24%).



Scan Me
Read more about Surrey Scholars



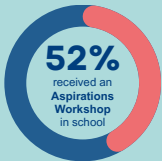
Surrey STARS

Surrey STARS is the sustained tracking of attainment-raising in schools, working collaboratively with secondary partners from across the local area towards achieving higher GCSE grades amongst eligible learners.



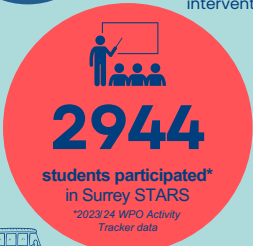
Working with schools

An overview of our engagement with our secondary partners



100

Y7 students attended a 6-week Rapid Reading intervention



906

eligible students visited the University of Surrey on a school trip

8

partner schools across Surrey, Berkshire and West Sussex



Ms F. Sanders

Being in partnership with the WPO Team at the University of Surrey has provided our students with a plethora of activities, campus visits and internal intervention. Alongside this, the WPO Team have supported Ash Manor each term with in school events, which have promoted the success of the partnership and demonstrates the rapport that has developed this academic year. Every opportunity has enhanced our students' knowledge of Higher Education and their aspirations for the future. It has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated team of individuals, who are always on hand to support with questions, innovation and the most incredible opportunities for our students.



Ash Manor School

Scan Me
Read more about Surrey STARS





Measuring impact

We evaluate Surrey STARS activity through active evaluation and post-event surveys to measure knowledge of HE options, capturing quantitative and qualitative data.

“ I really enjoyed today, I think I learnt a lot from today which will benefit my future. I'm glad I came today, and I now know a lot more than I did about uni before.

Y9 School, Skills & Beyond participant ”

93%
of Y9 School, Skills & Beyond participants now have a better understanding of the types of careers a degree can lead to

“ I loved this programme... it has made me realise how hard I need to work in school.

Y8 Exploring HE participant ”

67%

increase in Y8 Exploring HE participants knowing where to find information about university
(8% pre- / 75% post-event)

“ At first I was extremely anxious as I'm not a big fan of reading out loud but rapid reading has boosted my confidence a bit more.

Y7 Rapid Reading participant ”

95%
of Y7 University Start participants now know the differences between school and university

“ I thought it was extraordinarily beneficial, I've learnt a lot and I plan to use it later on in my GCSEs.

Y10 Revision Conference participant ”

220

Y10 Revision Conference engagements

Aspirations Curriculum

A total of **1536 students** attended our in-school workshops, focusing on information, advice and guidance around higher education. Sessions are delivered to whole year groups and use active evaluation to capture real-time responses as part of the delivery, to ensure that knowledge outcomes are met.

Y10 Revision Conferences

Our inaugural conference for Y10 students supported with English and Maths readiness ahead of starting in Year 11. We recorded **220 engagements** across our two day events, each led by one of our educational consultants.

Campus Visits

Our popular campus visits were attended by **906 students**. Our progressive programme invites students to return each year and build on their existing knowledge of higher education and career pathways. Students completing **Y7 University Start** demonstrated a significant understanding of the differences between school and university (95%) and of what it would be like to study at university (84%). **Y8 Exploring Higher Education** is a 3-day event with pre- and post-event surveys administered. On average, participants reported increases in their knowledge of where to find information about university (+67%), their awareness of the support available at university (+51%) and in their understanding of the costs of going to university (+42%). Students attending **Y9 School, Skills & Beyond** looked beyond study and considered career pathways, recording a high understanding of the types of careers a degree can lead to (93%) and understanding of the importance of having Maths and Science skills for different professions and pathways (85%).



In-school activity

A total of **585 students** attended one of our specialist in-school events. This includes our **Embedded Enrichment** workshops, showcasing subject specific content and relating to university study. Workshops use active evaluation to measure knowledge outcomes in real time. In addition, we delivered multiple sustained literacy and reading interventions, such as our **Y7 Rapid Reading, Y8 Creativity Unbound** and **Y9 Speak Up! Speak Out!** Each of these initiatives were evaluated through pre- and post-event surveys, along with interviews to measure qualitative impact.



Kings College Guildford Partnership

Since 2017, the University of Surrey has partnered with Kings College Guildford, with a member of our Widening Participation & Outreach Team working full-time within the school to deliver the Finding Our Futures programme.



A year in Kings

Our highlights from Finding Our Futures over the academic year



39

Finding Our Futures activities delivered

20

Year 10 students completed work experience at the University of Surrey



1785

total student engagements with Finding Our Futures activity



245

students attended University of Surrey funded school trips for cultural capital, careers and post-16 pathways



360

parents/carers engaged with at parents' evening and celebration events

Mr S. Stewart

We are proud of our ongoing partnership with the University of Surrey and their support with delivering the Finding Our Futures programme across the whole school. Our students benefit hugely from the opportunities offered both in school and on campus to support with their GCSE attainment and future aspirations. It has also been fantastic to hear about alumni now progressing onto a variety of higher education courses and how the Surrey Scholars programme has supported them to achieve their potential. We look forward to continuing our partnership and inspiring the next cohort of students starting at Kings.



Assistant Principal,
Kings College Guildford





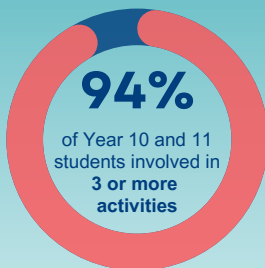
Measuring impact

We measure student engagement and outcomes from our embedded WPO programme across the school. All data from our 2023/24 Kings College Guildford Activity Tracker.



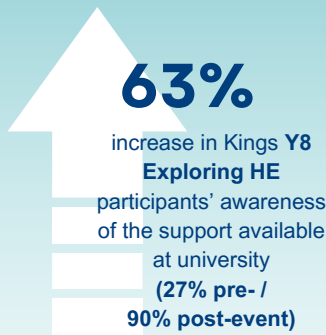
FINDING OUR FUTURES AT KINGS

“ I enjoyed today because it gave me an idea of what it would be like if I was an engineer.
Kings Y9 School, Skills & Beyond participant ”



“ Today was fun and helped me think more positive about going to university.
Kings Y9 School, Skills & Beyond participant ”

“ I really liked it... plus now know what to do in secondary for my GCSEs.
Kings Y8 Exploring Higher Education participant ”



The original school partnership

Our whole-school programme of tutor-time activities, trips and cultural capital opportunities, as well as bespoke attainment-raising activity, has taken place since 2017. As a local school, the main objective was to bring the University into the school, informing and inspiring students who live in a typically low HE-progression neighbourhood. Over the following 7 years, Finding Our Futures has become an established part of the school's timetable, with students enjoying regular trips and events at the University of Surrey, while our embedded full-time member of staff has led on the development and delivery of in-school activity. This year, **555 students** (the whole school) engaged with at least one aspect of the Finding Our Futures programme, with some taking part in up to 8 different aspiration-related activities.

In addition to the core programme, the **WPO Team funded 9 trips for 245 students** to visit non-University of Surrey sites to broaden awareness of careers, post-16 pathways and develop cultural capital. Furthermore, **39 students** took part in an after-school club led by a University of Surrey student society, and **71 Year 11 students** attended their end of year graduation on campus. As an established partnership, Kings College Guildford students now regularly participate in our extracurricular activity through Surrey Scholars and complete work experience placements at the University of Surrey, demonstrating how far the partnership has evolved.



Working in collaboration

We work collaboratively with community partners to provide additional opportunities for underrepresented learners through bespoke activity and broadening our Surrey Scholars offer.



Big Leaf Foundation

Helping displaced young people belong and grow

Working with refugees and asylum seekers

Since 2021, we have established an annual collaborative non-residential summer school in addition to hosting bespoke campus visits, GCSE support and HE preparation for refugees and asylum seekers.



24

refugees and asylum seekers attended our non-residential summer school in 2023

5

participants have been accepted into Higher Education for September 2024 entry following attendance of at least 1 of our collaborative events in the past 12 months

Elias

I attend events at the University with Big Leaf... Activities like these help me to stay focused on my education, keep positive and to work hard. I know that they will help me to achieve my dreams as soon as possible.



Participant





Further opportunities for our Surrey Scholars

Discover University Summer School

The University of Surrey is a partner member of the **Higher Education Outreach Network (HEON)** through the Office for Students' UniConnect programme. Each year, we host the annual Discover University Summer School, a 4-day/3-night residential, for secondary school students during the summer holidays.

This year, we welcomed **60 participants**, aged 14-16 years. Of the cohort, 50% had previously attended either a Surrey Scholars or HEON activity whilst the remainder were enrolled at a HEON target school. By the end of the experience, 94% stated that they knew what student life would be like (+48% pre-survey) following projects and workshops at the University of Surrey, UCA and Merrist Wood.

Moreover, 91% said that they now have a good understanding of the options available to them after leaving school or college (+20% pre-survey) with significant increases recorded in understanding of how student finance works (+50% pre-survey) and good understanding of the personal support available for students in HE (+54% pre-survey). By the end of the summer school, 76% of the cohort felt confident that they could progress to HE in the future (+11% pre-survey).

Measuring impact

91% have a good understanding of options available after leaving school/college

54% increase in Discover University participants saying that they had a good understanding of the personal support available in HE (26% pre/ 80% post-survey)

“ I was closed off about going to Uni, the debt and the money I didn't want to think about it but talking to ambassadors and hearing about jobs that they are excited to do
Discover University participant **”**

Thorpe Park Challenge

In April, **37 participants** took part in the Thorpe Park Challenge, a multi-day event delivered during the Easter holidays in collaboration with **The Inspirational Learning Group (TILG)** and **Thorpe Park**. Participants worked in groups to design and develop a new theme park attraction before pitching their ideas to a panel of Thorpe Park judges.



Participants demonstrated their teamwork, business acumen and presentation skills, before an afternoon enjoying the rides. By the end of the 2-day experience, 91% had an understanding of the importance of time management whilst 86% stated that the project had developed their creativity skills and 77% felt confident in applying their presentation skills.

“ The opportunity to work with TILG and Thorpe Park has given our Surrey Scholars a memorable experience where they have been able to practice, develop and apply their employability skills.
Rob Thatcher (WPO Manager) **”**

100% of participants took part in a group presentation

83% understand that trying new activities gives you new skills



Find out more

The Widening Participation & Outreach Team works towards the access targets as outlined in the University of Surrey's Access & Participation Plan, which is approved and regulated by the Office for Students (OfS).

We track HE progression rates using the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT) to monitor and report on our impact.
All data published is correct as of 9 September 2024.



To learn more about our programmes and activities, or if you would like to work with us, contact and/or follow us at:

 email: wp@surrey.ac.uk

 web: outreach.surrey.ac.uk

 socials: [@SurreyOutreach](https://twitter.com/SurreyOutreach)





Thank you

We would like to recognise the contribution of our friends and colleagues over the 2023/24 academic year.

University of Surrey

Faculty of Arts, Business & Social Sciences
Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences
Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences
Chief Students' Office
Recruitment & Admissions
Surrey Sports Park

Surrey Scholars Partners

Brightside Mentoring
Pathway CTM
Principal Exams (UK) Ltd.
GCSE English Consultancy

Collaborative Partners

Higher Education Outreach Network
Big Leaf Foundation
The Inspirational Learning Group
Thorpe Park

Surrey STARS Partner Schools

Ash Manor School
Carrington School
Kings Academy
Easthampstead Park
Kings College Guildford
Merstham Park School
Moon Hall School
Oriel High School
Reigate School



