

**WIDENING  
PARTICIPATION  
ANNUAL REPORT**

2016-2017

**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

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## FOREWORD

**Professor Chris Hughes**, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education)

**W**idening participation is central to the University of Warwick's overall mission and its education strategy.

WP matters hugely to the Warwick staff and student community as part of our contribution to social mobility nationally and regional engagement, and above all to ensure we are able to recruit and support the development of the most talented students regardless of background.

As this Impact Report outlines, Warwick continues to make significant progress in WP objectives and has a diverse and dynamic set of programmes underpinning our activities. Our staff and students demonstrate tremendous commitment in working in partnership on WP initiatives with a range of schools, charitable foundations, universities, and government agencies. But we are aware that we constantly need to stretch and further enhance our efforts in WP. Hence, as we look

forward, Warwick will continue to develop the life-cycle approach to WP to support students across their entire journey from recruitment, to their studies at Warwick, and through to employment and further study. Warwick will also look to set ever more ambitious objectives and consolidate its position as beacon of excellence in WP activities. Warwick's top leadership, academic and professional support staff, and students are fully committed to these goals.

**Paul Blagburn**, Head of Widening Participation and Outreach

**T**he University continues to make great strides in its efforts to widen participation and promote social mobility.

Our work to provide opportunities for people from under-represented groups in higher education to realise their potential and make an informed decision about their future, whether that be at Warwick or elsewhere, remains core to our mission. Our approach spans the whole student lifecycle, from sowing the seeds about university in primary schools to promoting the benefits of lifelong learning in local community settings. The content in this report only starts to touch the surface of our work and impact, however hopefully it coheres with our approach to provide highly targeted, innovative and sustained support to enable students to access, excel in and progress through their university experience ready to thrive in the career they pursue.

2016/17 has been a positive year, marking the launch of many new initiatives, including a new Contextual Data policy which aims to recognise the academic potential of applicants regardless of background. We continue to expand our provision for Looked after Children and enhance our support to raise attainment through our A Level Bootcamp. We have launched a new programme, Pathways to Banking and Finance, in partnership with The Sutton Trust and the London School of Economics to lower the barriers for students wishing to enter this industry. We've also been successful in two Higher Education Funding Council for England programmes, firstly leading the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) in Warwickshire and also extending the WP frontier to postgraduate study, working in collaboration with five other Russell Group institutions to support the progress to and success in PG study for BME and disadvantaged students.

We continue to work collaboratively locally and nationally and have supported the development of Advancing Access, a new online platform for teachers and advisors to support their students in accessing leading universities. Our Warwick Scholars Programme goes from strength to strength, providing enhanced support to Warwick students to ensure they have every opportunity to excel and make the most of their Warwick student experience.

I'd like to extend my thanks to all who support our work especially our students and staff, our partners locally and further afield, and our alumni, funders and donors, without your commitment and support we would not have been half as successful as we have been. Despite this progress, we need to go further and in 2018 we will launch our new strategy outlining our plan to accelerate and drive our ambition to be a leading university for social mobility in the country.

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Supporting upward social mobility was at the core of the foundation of the University.

The University has a deep-rooted commitment and affinity to attract, support and enable some of the best talent, irrespective of background, to fulfil their potential. Core to our work are the collaborations with other universities, schools, colleges, regional partners, industry, and the charitable sector to enhance social mobility. Our work spans many geographical reaches, supporting young people, and their parents/carers, to make informed decisions about their educational journey on a local, regional and national level.

We run a wide range of events and activities for young people aged between 9 and 19, targeted at UK state school educated students, students who would be the first in their family to attend university, students from low socio-economic backgrounds and students who come from neighbourhoods where there is low progression to higher education.

Our aim is to enhance access to higher education for all those who aspire and have the potential to study at university, regardless of background, and to ensure that the students studying at the University of Warwick are representative of our local and wider national communities.

Ensuring the University is accessible to students from all backgrounds is one of the eight values set out in Warwick's University strategy, demonstrating our commitment to widening participation and the significance placed on this important work.

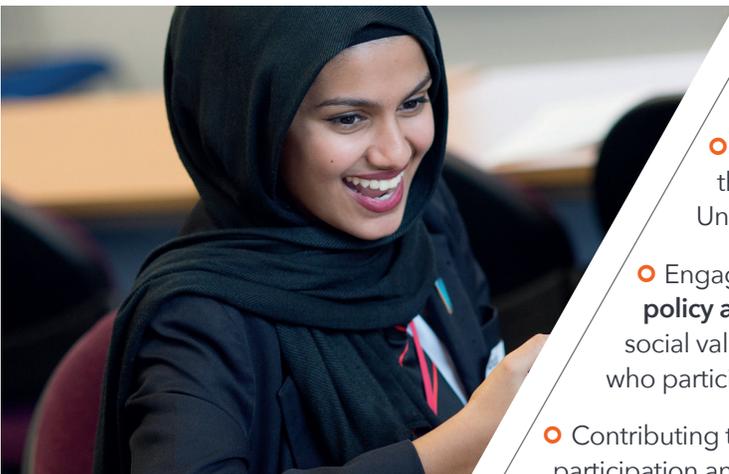
**Our common purpose is to enhance social diversity and participation in higher education by:**

- Pioneering programmes that are **relevant** to individual learners, teachers, schools and colleges and employers and which overcome barriers to achievement, **enable progression** and ensure that individuals reach their **academic potential**;
- Providing all learners with an **exceptional experience** at Warwick that is founded in the **highest standards** of teaching, learning and supporting infrastructure shaped around individual learner needs;
- **Working collaboratively** to develop access routes into Warwick and into employment that are based on informed practices and scholarly research;
- Engaging with our **local communities** to ensure that they, and our students, benefit from the University's presence and facilities in the region;
- Engaging in the **national and international policy arena** to promote the economic and social value of increasing the diversity of those who participate in higher education;
- Contributing to the national widening participation and access **policy discourse**.

The University committed over

**£2.1m**

on access provision



**£6.5m**

on student financial support

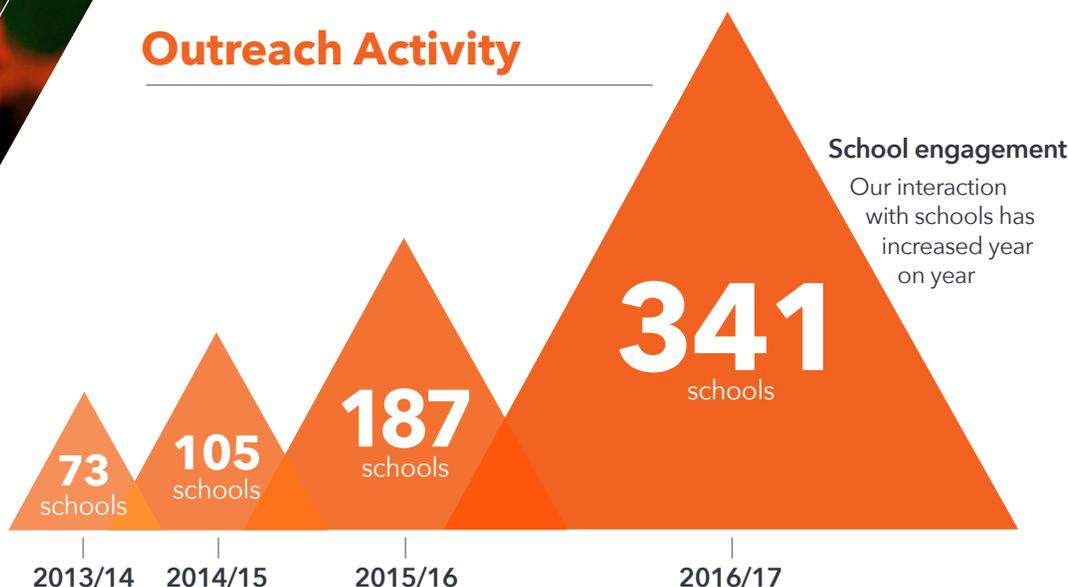
## WIDENING PARTICIPATION IN NUMBERS

The University connects with a diverse range of young people, parents/carers, teachers, adult returners and students to foster aspiration and progression to higher education and access to Warwick.

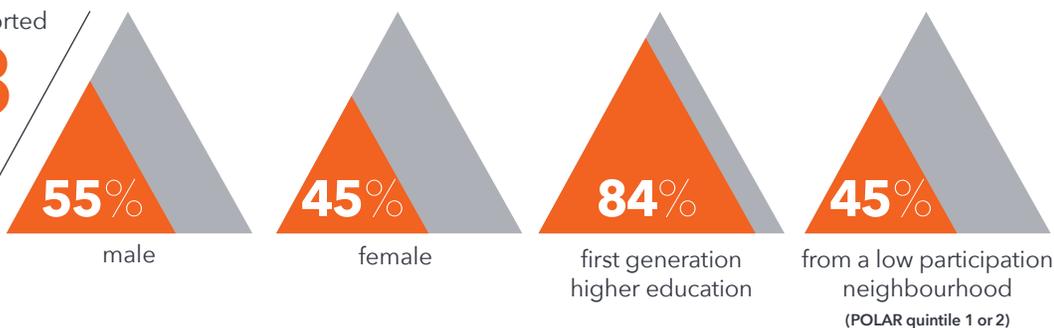
In 2016/17 we worked with:

**13,710** students  
in **341** schools

### Outreach Activity

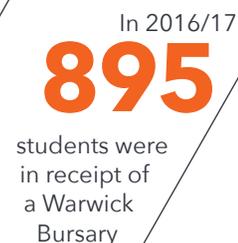
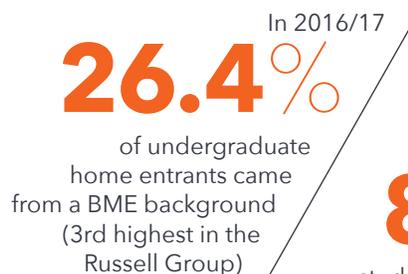
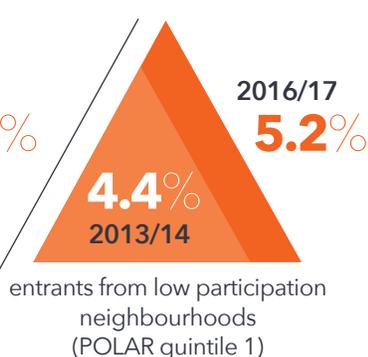
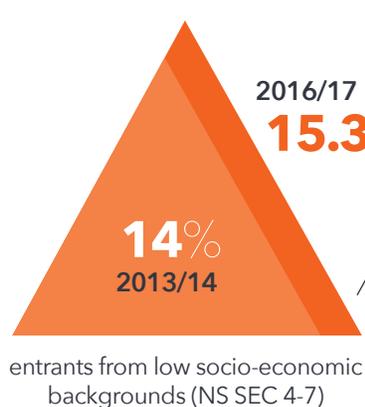


And supported **1,578** students in long-term sustained activity. With **1,000** contact hours, over **215** activities



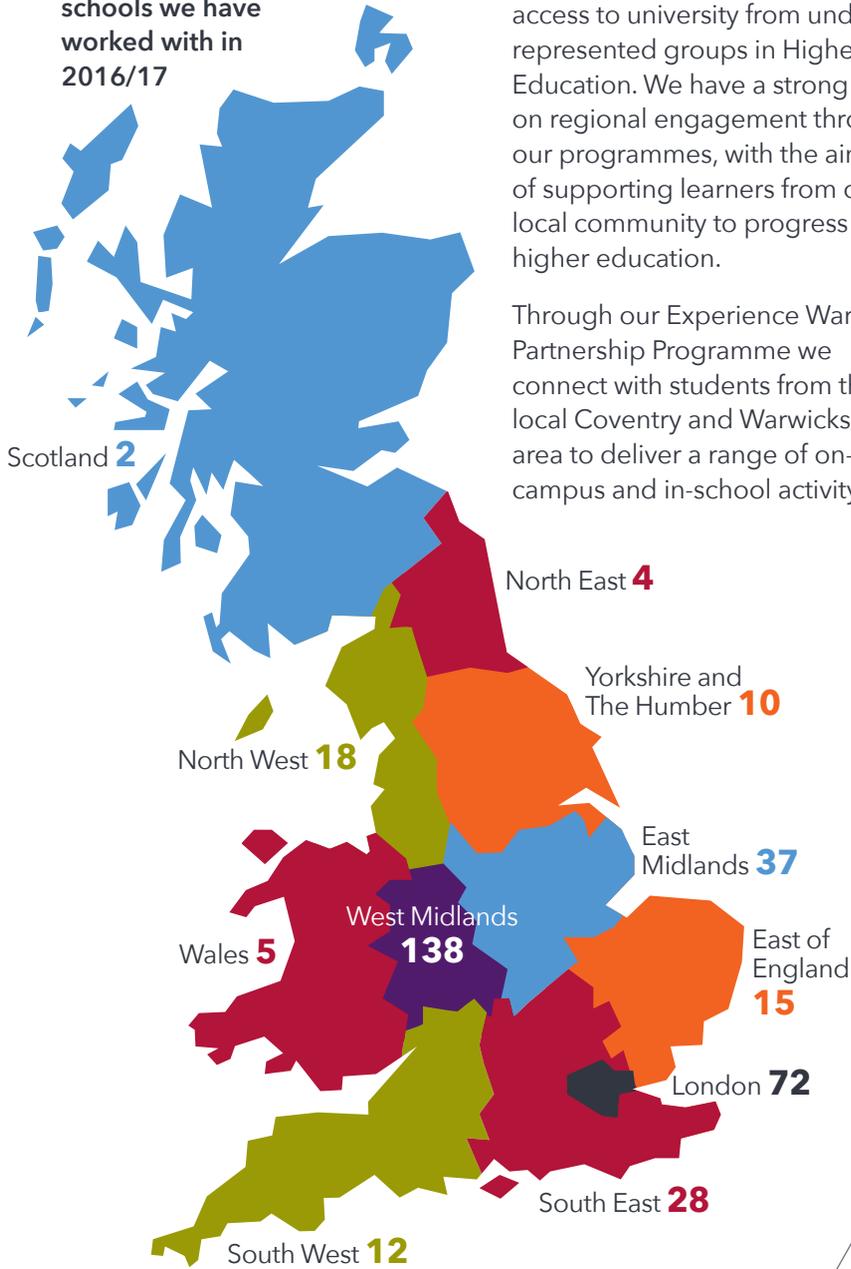
### Access to Warwick

The University has made positive progress with many of its access target groups over a period of time.



# WORKING WITH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Location map of schools we have worked with in 2016/17



We ran **215**

activities, including visits to campus, in school sessions and summer schools

**O**ur relationships with schools and colleges are a fundamental element of the work we do and we recognise the value of working closely with teachers to achieve our goal of increasing access to university from under-represented groups in Higher Education. We have a strong focus on regional engagement through our programmes, with the aim of supporting learners from our local community to progress onto higher education.

Through our Experience Warwick Partnership Programme we connect with students from the local Coventry and Warwickshire area to deliver a range of on-campus and in-school activity.

We work with students from Year 7 up to Year 13 offering impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG), enabling learners to make informed decisions at key milestones in their school career.

**“ Nicholas Chamberlaine School has developed a close relationship with the University of Warwick’s Outreach Team. With a significant number of our students eligible for Pupil Premium funding, or living in areas with low participation in higher education, the Outreach Team and their ambassadors actively engage our students in thinking about university as a potential destination. ”**

Teacher, Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Warwickshire

We also work with schools from across the West Midlands, through programmes like Realising Opportunities and Pathways to Law, and our national access programme, UniTracks, is open to schools in a number of regions across the country.

**Our target schools/colleges are:**

- Schools with a high % of students who would be the first in their family to attend university
- Schools with a high % of students from low socio-economic backgrounds
- Schools with a high % of students who come from neighbourhoods where there is low progression to university
- Schools performing below the national average at key stage 4 and 5



We received  
**130**  
 applications from  
 Realising Opportunities  
 students nationally  
 through UCAS

## GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY

The geographical mobility of the students we work with is an important part of what we do and we run a number of programmes and activities which recruit students from across the country. Our UniTracks programme worked with students from over 11 different local authorities last year and our summer schools supported students from as far afield as Plymouth and Newcastle on Tyne.

By providing students with the opportunity to visit the University of Warwick and meet current students, we aim to help address some of the concerns or misconceptions students may have about attending a university further away from home.

We work collaboratively with universities across the country to enhance access to HE and to Warwick.

### Spotlight on

#### Realising Opportunities

- Two year national outreach programme targeted at highly able students in Year 12
- A collaboration of 15 leading, research-intensive universities from across the country, working together to promote fair access and social mobility of students from groups underrepresented in higher education
- Each university recruits able students from their local area, offering them a range of events and activities. These provide students with skills and information to help them make informed decisions about their future, raising their aspirations to progress to a leading research-intensive university
- Students have the opportunity to visit the other universities and meet students from around the country

### Spotlight on

#### UniTracks

- The programme targets schools largely in 'coldspots' or areas with low participation rates progressing to higher education
- Four year national outreach programme targeted at highly able students in years 10-13
- Events and workshops designed to build skills, confidence, and academic attainment
- Opportunities to learn all about university life, the benefits of pursuing university studies, and how to make an application to the best universities in the country

**//** Unitracks provides each student with an invaluable and unique experience, by exposing them to a world of opportunity. Personally, Unitracks has completely changed my perception of university and what I wish to pursue post-education. I owe a lot to the programme and the people behind-the-scenes for offering me that stepping stone I would have missed out on. If you have the chance to apply I would advise you to not think twice and grab the opportunity with both hands. **//**

Annissa, Year 12, Bordesley Green Girls' School, Birmingham

**//** Realising opportunities gave me the confidence to apply for universities that, otherwise, would have seemed out of reach for me **//**

Former Realising Opportunities student and Warwick entrant 2017



**KEY TO RECRUITMENT**  
**Local** = Coventry and Warwickshire  
**Regional** = West Midlands

PRIMARY

**Warwick Bright Stars**

AGE GROUP Primary  
 CATEGORY Aspiration  
 RECRUITMENT Local  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 780

# WIDENING PARTICIPATION AT WARWICK

This roadmap provides an overview of the University's core activity, demonstrating how we work across the whole student lifecycle.



## Teacher Engagement - Advancing Access

Warwick is collaborating with all Russell Group universities to provide online resources for teachers to support their students to succeed. Advancing Access is a suite of free online resources designed to support teachers and advisers in helping students to choose the right university and course, and to understand and navigate the admissions process. The resources are being used by teachers and advisers across the UK, reaching over 850 teachers and careers advisers, at nearly 450 schools and colleges.



ACCESS, TRANSITION & SUPPORT

## University Explorers Programme

AGE GROUP Primary/Looked after Children  
 CATEGORY Aspiration  
 RECRUITMENT Local  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 18

PRE 16

## Experience Warwick Partnership Programme

AGE GROUP Years 7-13  
 CATEGORY Aspiration and IAG  
 RECRUITMENT Local  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 3,000 from 25 partner schools

## University Go!

AGE GROUP Years 7-9  
 Looked after Children  
 CATEGORY Aspiration and Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)  
 RECRUITMENT Local  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 20

## Contextual Admissions

The University of Warwick is committed to making a high-quality and challenging university education available to those who are capable of benefiting from it. The University's Contextual Data policy recognises individual and educational circumstances when assessing applications. Applicants who meet specific criteria would be eligible for a lower offer of up to two A Level (or equivalent) grades below the standard University offer (to a minimum of BBB).

Criteria include:

- Attend a school/college performing below the national average at KS4 or KS5
- Attend a school with above the national average entitlement/eligibility for Free School Meals
- Spent time in local authority care
- Live in a low participation neighbourhood or deprived area

## Brilliant Club

AGE GROUP Year 6-12  
 CATEGORY Attainment Raising  
 RECRUITMENT National  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 1320

## GCSE Bootcamp

AGE GROUP Year 11  
 CATEGORY Attainment Raising  
 RECRUITMENT National  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 45

## Experience Health Sciences Summer School

AGE GROUP Year 11  
 CATEGORY Summer School  
 RECRUITMENT Regional and London  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 31

POST 16

## Experience Warwick Summer School

AGE GROUP Year 12  
 CATEGORY Access  
 RECRUITMENT National  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 63

## Schools Warwick Visits

AGE GROUP Year 11-13  
 CATEGORY Access  
 RECRUITMENT National  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 378

## National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP)

AGE GROUP 9-13  
 CATEGORY Aspiration and IAG  
 RECRUITMENT Local

AGE GROUP Undergraduate students  
 CATEGORY Access  
 RECRUITMENT National  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 23

AGE GROUP Undergraduate students  
 CATEGORY Access  
 RECRUITMENT National  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 251

AGE GROUP Undergraduate students  
 CATEGORY Retention and Success  
 RECRUITMENT National  
 16/17 ENGAGEMENT 51

AGE GROUP Undergraduate students  
 CATEGORY Progression  
 RECRUITMENT National

## WBS Foundation Year

## 2+2 Degrees

## Warwick Scholars Programme (WSP)

## Progression to Postgraduate



## PRE-16 ACTIVITY

At Warwick, we believe it's important to engage with students from a young age and we run a wide range of activity for students who are under the age of 16.

### Bright Stars

**Warwick Bright Stars** is a primary outreach programme which aims to create a sustainable partnership with local primary schools to raise aspirations and awareness in young pupils of the advantages of studying at university.

We offer in-school modules delivered by current students and on-campus visit days, designed to inspire excitement and interest in learning. Our goal is to help schools inspire the scientists, engineers and teachers of tomorrow and by sending volunteers into schools we aim to provide participants with a diverse and enthusiastic group of positive role models.

**// We all had an amazing experience. Many of our children were unaware of what a university campus was, yet left with aspirations of attending a university in the future! //**

Science Coordinator,  
Southfields Primary School

### Sutton Scholars

**Warwick Sutton Scholars** is a two year programme for highly able Year 8 and 9 students who come from backgrounds that are under-represented in higher education. The overall aim of the programme is to support students to reach their full potential, providing them with information, advice and guidance to allow them to make informed choices at all of the key decision making points of their educational journey and encourage them to consider HE in the future. Students are stretched and challenged through group project work and are mentored by current Warwick students.

**// I think that I have had a massive boost in my confidence because as a person I tend to be quite hesitant but because of my mentors and new friends I am more confident and wanting to learn more. //**

Warwick Sutton Scholars participant

**// I would recommend, if your child gets this opportunity take it, enjoy it and see your child's knowledge of uni grow and also their confidence...Overall a great experience and an opportunity not to be missed! //**

Parent of a Warwick Sutton Scholar



## POST-16 ACTIVITY

**// This has probably been the best experience I've had, it has encouraged me to take medicine even more and I really enjoyed everything, the student ambassadors were so supportive and friendly. //**

Year 11 Experience Health Sciences  
Summer School participant

**// Thank you everyone for such an inspirational and eye opening week. My perspective of the world has been thrown off its axis and redefined in a way I never thought possible. //**

Sutton Trust Summer School participant

We run a range of activities and events for students who are aged 16-19, focusing on academic enrichment, attainment raising and preparation for university including application and personal statement support.

### Summer Schools

Our **Summer Schools** offer participants a varied insight into life at a research-intensive university. This includes staying in our halls of residence, attending academic sessions and experiencing the social and sports facilities on our campus. Participants have the opportunity to interact with our Ambassadors who are current students at the University.

### Pathways to Law

**Pathways to Law** is a national outreach programme available to students from state schools who are interested in pursuing a career in Law. The programme seeks to provide students with the skills, experience and confidence necessary to succeed at university and beyond. The Pathways to Law programme offers students in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 an opportunity to find out more about studying a Law degree, university life and careers in the legal profession.

**// The experience has been invaluable and has helped me to confirm why I wanted to study Law but also take part in activities that lots of people wouldn't have the chance to. I would recommend Pathways to anyone who wants to study Law. //**

Former Pathways to Law student

**60%**  
of our Sutton Trust  
Summer School  
participants applied  
to Warwick in  
2016/17

**267**  
students took  
part in our **2017**  
summer schools,  
ranging in age  
from 15 to 18

We supported  
**61**  
Year 12 and 13  
students on our  
Pathways to Law  
programme





## ATTAINMENT RAISING

**T**he academic attainment of the students we work with is crucial in enabling them to progress to higher education. At Warwick, we continue to focus on improving academic attainment, both at GCSE and post-16 stages, ensuring that students from targeted groups are not only inspired by the opportunities HE provides, but are equipped academically to reach their potential.

In 2016-17 we offered supplementary school holiday revision sessions for GCSE and A Level students across 10 subjects, including Psychology and Mathematics. The overall objective of these sessions was to improve learner attainment by one grade in a specific discipline but additional outcomes were noted by students, for example increased confidence in their own ability to perform well in exams and an enhanced readiness for the transition to higher education.

We are also actively engaged in a '**Closing the Gap**' project with Warwickshire County Council to examine the challenges faced by disadvantaged learners and to develop intervention and support that promotes better attainment and progression outcomes for these students at all stages of their educational journey.

### Spotlight on

#### A level Bootcamp

During the Easter holidays, 116 Year 13 students attended an intensive three-day A Level Revision Bootcamp. Students had the opportunity to go through exam board-specific subject content, practise exam techniques, and review their progress through assessments and extensive feedback. They received tailored advice and support for their subject and developed strategies to better prepare for their exams.

**// The personal support I received after my mock and throughout the revision was invaluable. The motivational speaker was amazing! //**

A level Bootcamp participant

In addition, students received guidance sessions to prepare them for university life, such as finance and budgeting and UCAS support focusing on Results Day, and Confirmation and Clearing. Students left the Bootcamp with a boost of confidence that they were able to take forward into their final assessments and secure their university places.

**// My tutor was absolutely fantastic. He was highly experienced in his field and knew a lot of information that was useful to me. He was able to aid me in the areas of my subject that I was struggling in and has given me much confidence going ahead in to my... exams! //**

GCSE Bootcamp participant

# 116

students took part in the A level revision Bootcamp from 41 schools

# 45

students took part in the GCSE Bootcamp from 15 schools

**// Just wanted to say following submitting Boston-Rose's GCSE result through the online survey, her Numeric English Language GCSE grade went up from a 7 to a 9. We would just like to say a personal thank you, as this is the workshop she attended at the last residential and it evidently paid off. //**

Parent of GCSE Bootcamp participant

23

students enrolled on the Foundation Year in 2016/17

13

## PATHWAYS TO WARWICK

Warwick has created range of innovative pathways to enhance opportunity for non-traditional and under-represented groups to study at the University.

### 2+2 Degrees

The Centre for Lifelong Learning offer a 2+2 Degree designed for students who may not have formal qualifications and wish to study locally for a university degree.

The first two years of study are undertaken at one of the University's partner colleges, enabling students to gain confidence in coping with academic study, presentation skills and study skills in a local environment. Students then study years 3 and 4 at the University of Warwick.

In September 1991 the first cohort of 2+2 students began their studies and since then over 2000 students have studied on this programme. Many of those on the course entered without any qualifications, and have gone on to further study or careers in areas such as social work, teaching, local government, the community and voluntary sectors and research.

**“ Completing the 2+2 degree has opened up so many opportunities for me to explore in the future. Without a doubt there is an overwhelming feeling of pride and achievement of completing the degree. ”**

Nasreen Akhlaq

### WBS Foundation Year

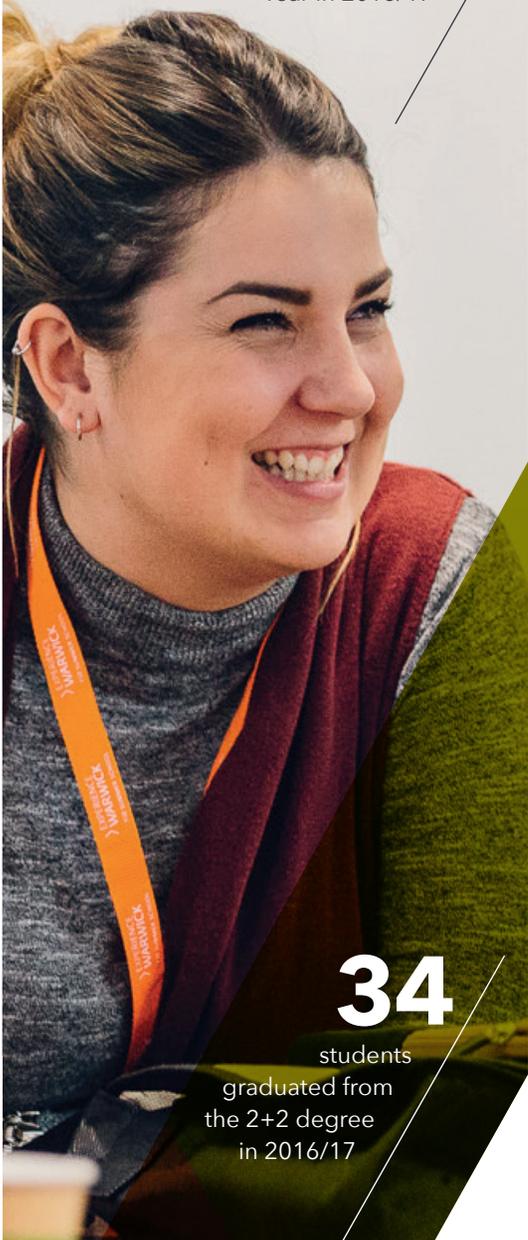
Warwick Business School (WBS) offers a Foundation Year for students who have the potential to undertake degree-level study at WBS but lack the qualifications for direct entry. It is an option for students from widening participation backgrounds and aims to give students the opportunity to build their knowledge about business and spend a year developing their academic study skills.

In addition to taking modules that build their knowledge of business, problem-solving, academic skills, maths and stats, the students are provided with a diverse programme of events and activities, such as off campus visits to businesses, guest lectures, careers workshops, and service projects, that build students' confidence.

On successful completion of the Foundation Year, students will progress automatically to the same three-year course of degree-level study, and graduate with the same BSc degree in Accounting & Finance or Management, as direct-entry students at WBS.

**“ After this year, I will be advancing onto the first year of the direct entry Accounting and Finance degree. With all the support I have received from the Foundation Year I will be fully equipped and ready for what the year has to offer. ”**

Silvia Bonku Ephraim, BSc Accounting & Finance with Foundation Year



34

students graduated from the 2+2 degree in 2016/17

98%

of Foundation Year students successfully progressed to year one in 2016/17

251

students studying on 2+2 degrees

## DEPARTMENTAL OUTREACH

**A**cademic departments at the University make a significant contribution to the work we do to widen participation at Warwick.

All departments have a widening participation representative and many run their own departmental outreach programmes. This support is invaluable in giving students a true insight into academic study at university and helping them to choose the subject that is right for them.

Many academic colleagues support the delivery of outreach activity, for example through delivering sessions at our on-campus Taster Days or involvement in our subject-specific programmes such as Pathways to Law and Banking. Our UniTracks programme involves the Warwick Business School and the Film and Television Studies department in the delivery of one of its key projects and the Sutton Trust Summer School involved a number of colleagues from six departments across the university last year.

We also have a widening participation development fund which gives departments the opportunity to bid for funding to support innovative widening participation projects.

### Spotlight on

#### WP Development Fund project - Writing Wrongs

Writing Wrongs is an essay competition being run by the School of Law and Department of English and provides year 12 students with an exciting opportunity to see their work published in the University of Warwick's Lacuna online magazine and gain a paid, month-long summer internship with the magazine. Leading academics and writers from Warwick provide students with advice and guidance on essential research and writing skills through intensive workshops and online resources. In doing so, students experience first-hand the practice of university level research and writing style and gain skills to aid them during their A Level studies.

Funding towards WP Development projects in 2016/17 -

£197,283

Total contribution to projects since the fund was set up in 2014 -

£532,980

In 2016/17 we funded projects led by academic departments in the following areas:

- / The Chemistry department
- / The Sociology department
- / Warwick Medical School
- / Student Careers and Skills
- / The Centre for Teacher Education
- / The Centre for Lifelong Learning



## WARWICK SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

**The University is committed to supporting students across the full lifecycle of their involvement with higher education, focusing not only on access to university but also excellence and progression beyond their degree.** Financial support, tailored careers guidance and opportunities to engage with activity outside of academic study are some of the ways we support our students to succeed at Warwick.

Warwick Scholars Programme (WSP) is our philanthropically funded flagship (undergraduate) scholarships programme. Prior to starting university, our Warwick Scholars participate in an outreach programme whilst at school/sixth form, which supports gifted and talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds. These outreach programmes help young people fulfil their academic potential and raise their aspirations.

Whilst on the programme, each scholar receives £2,000 per annum for each year of their degree, which assists with living costs, and there are also opportunities for the students to apply for additional funding to help with the costs of undertaking vacation schemes and work/volunteer placements.

“Thank you! I am so thankful for your overwhelming generosity. Working class students are underrepresented at UK universities and I sincerely hope that you take pride in knowing that you are responsible for improving this statistic and eliminating many of the obstacles that we face in accessing higher education. My university experience would not have been the same without your help - you have enabled me to fund my maintenance costs with ease, undertake work placements, and even travel across the country to return home and see my family which is something that many take for granted. Owing to this financial assistance many of the concerns I once had about accepting my university space have been lifted. Your benevolence is admirable and you’ve set a humbling example for us scholars.”

Alex Holland, WSP, Final year BA Law (LLB)

“I am honoured and extremely grateful for the fact I am supported in this way. Not only does it give me peace of mind financially and has allowed me to do things I might not necessarily have done otherwise, it also gives me confidence boost. Just because I come from a deprived area doesn’t mean I’m not good enough to be here.”

Sam Martin, WSP Scholar, Chemistry

9

WSP students cohort in 2013/14

51

WSP students cohort in 2016/17



## Widening Participation and Outreach Team

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We would like to thank the following partners and supporters for their contribution towards widening participation at Warwick over the last year.

