Welcome back to the Widening Participation and Outreach Team Newsletter! Read on to find out what we’ve been up to in a post-COVID world…

Celebrating International Day of Women and Girls in Science - 11th February 2021

To celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021 we asked our students and academic staff to create some great videos on their experiences of being Women in Science at Warwick. Several of our colleagues from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine took part in creating both pre-recorded content and hosted a live Q&A on the day.

We created pre-recorded interactive sessions aimed at year 9/10 students, to encourage them to consider a future in science. These one hour pre-planned lesson plans that included an academic session (delivered by some of our wonderful female colleagues), a talk by a current SEM student and a short session about applying to University.

On the evening of the 11th February, we hosted a virtual, live Q&A panel event aimed at year 12/13s, where the all-female panel was chaired by Professor Caroline Meyer (Faculty Chair and Professor within Warwick Manufacturing Group), and included three academics, a Biochemistry Alumna (who is now a research scientist at Oxford) and a current Physics student. The event was a huge success with 125 prospective students attending and 99 engaging and though provoking questions asked in just over an hour! The event was such a success that we hope to deliver something similar again soon.

If you would like to request our Year 9/10 Science Lesson plans please email us at outreach@warwick.ac.uk and you can view our amazing female academics talking about their roles and journeys here: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/scienceinschools/internationalwomeninscienceevent2021/

Finally if you would like to know more about Science in Schools, please email our WP Faculty Coordinator, Amanda Bishop on Amanda.m.bishop@warwick.ac.uk

Our Programmes in Numbers…

Below you can see some key stats:

77 Warwick Scholars who will have guaranteed offers from Warwick

Warwick Scholars will have organised over 1000 hours of 1-to-1 tutoring for students

93 students have joined Realising Opportunities this year and 27 students from Realising Opportunities have joined Warwick in 2020

Students enrolled in pathways programmes: 43 for law, 37 for banking and finance, 36 for engineering

*accurate at time of print
Pathways Launches

This year the Pathways team hosted 3 virtual launches for our programmes, Pathways to Law, Pathways to Banking & Finance and the brand new Pathways to Engineering, throughout the months of November and December 2020. The launches took place on Wednesday evenings and ran from 4:30pm – 7:30pm on the platform Blackboard. The launches provided the team an opportunity to meet the new cohorts and explain to them more about the programme and what to expect over the 2 years. All the launches followed a similar timetable, with each opening with a welcome and introduction talk, which included an icebreaker quiz. Each programme then had a digital skills talk from an employer. The law students had a talk from DLA Piper, the Banking & Finance students heard from NatWest Banks and the engineering cohort heard from Shell. Once all the students had heard about digital skills, students were put into breakout rooms so they could practice their digital skills and introduce themselves which involved small team building exercises. The main aim of this session was for students to meet each other and the pathways mentors who will be supporting them on the programme. After the team building session student had a quick break before participating in a student finance Q&A with a member of the university’s student funding team. The students then heard from a year 13 pathways student, who spoke about their pathway and what they got from the programme so far. The final session involved programme ‘next steps’ and informed students about the next upcoming event the CV workshop, which will take place in January. The students were then asked to complete a short evaluation form before the event finished. All the students said they enjoyed the launch and they felt much more informed about the programme afterwards. When asked ‘what are you most looking forward to on the Pathways programme?’, most students replied by saying the work experience and engaging with employers. Other themes that came up were, the summer school and speaking to professionals.

One of our highlights was taking part in the first ever Coventry & Warwickshire Virtual Career Show. The virtual fair was organised by the Coventry & Warwickshire Careers Hub. Employers, colleges and universities from the region were able to ‘staff’ a virtual stand where they could include useful links, resources and videos for local students, teachers and parents/carers.

The WP team and Warwick Student Ambassadors ‘staffed’ the virtual stand and answered lots of live chat questions from students including questions about specific subjects, career pathways, degree apprenticeships and post-16 options. We were very impressed by how thoughtful and insightful these questions were and it was an absolute pleasure to take part in this event. We’re very grateful to the Coventry & Warwickshire Careers Hub for putting on such a fantastic Careers Show!

We also enjoyed speaking to some brilliant Year 10 and Year 11 students at Harris Church of England Academy during the week. In this session, WP staff and Student Ambassadors gave an introduction to university and university life and shared information about post-16 options and next steps.

Warwick at National Careers Week 2021

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A Spotlight on...

Green Week

At the beginning of March we marked Green Week during a series of online events and talks, held across the University and in collaboration with colleagues at Coventry University.

As we all think about ways that we can reduce our environmental impact and increase our sustainability, we looked to departments within the University who are doing vital research and work to achieve this.

One course is Global Sustainable Development, which is a transdisciplinary course which seeks to critically evaluate and explore the concept through many disciplines across social sciences, sciences and humanities.

Current student Daveena explains what GSD means to her:

“Global Sustainable Development is all around us. It is in everything we do. From food to fashion, economy to environment, every action you have taken today will directly be linked to Global Sustainable Development. It is a way to acknowledge the past, accept the present and advance the future. It is for you, me and the rest of the world. How you shape it is up to you.”

Daveena
final-year single honours GSD student

There is also a lot of research and innovation happening at Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) and recently our colleagues there held a Webinar (video available online) in which they discussed powering the future responsibly, many schools attended the webinar and more events are planned in the future. Please keep an eye on our website and social media feeds for more information and who knows, you could be an innovator of the (green) future!

To find out more about our Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development Courses or any of our UG courses for 2021/22 entry visit here https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/

DIGITAL RESOURCES:
We have a wide range of digital resources available on our website https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/digitalactivity

Save the date!
Pre 16 Summer Series 5-16 July 2021 - Registration of interest form opening soon
Sutton Trust Year 12 Digital Summer School 2- 6 August 2021 - Now fully booked

STAY SAFE  ❣️  STAY HOME.