



Outreach @Warwick

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Issue 21
Autumn Edition 2021



Welcome back to the Widening Participation and Outreach Team Newsletter! We're excited to show you what we've been up to over the past few months...

The Explore Warwick Summer Series

With the ongoing pandemic stopping us running any face-to-face residential summer schools this year, we wanted to ensure that school students didn't miss out and had the opportunity to engage with a university experience and so we developed our first ever digital 'Explore Warwick Summer Series' for **Year 8 and Year 9 students**.

Taking place during the first two weeks of July 2021, we offered tailored interactions with schools, through a series of virtual activities, delivered daily that enabled us to reach beyond our usual regional borders for school engagement.

One of the main elements of our Explore Warwick Summer Series was our digital campus tour. As we were not able to bring students onto campus, we took our campus directly into the school classroom with **a 40 minute interactive tour**.

Philosophy at university

There are many combined philosophy degrees

- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Maths and Philosophy
- Philosophy and Literature
- History and Philosophy
- and more!

The second session was an academic taster lecture held by a Warwick academic. We had a total of **10 different session from across the faculties ranging from Maths, Statistic to GSD and Theatre**. Despite being held virtually, the sessions were really interactive and engaging and were pitched to spark an interest within the students for a subject they might not traditionally learn about at school.

Alongside our live digital content, we were also celebrating our community as part of **Coventry City of Culture with a Schools mini project Challenge**. By providing a project brief and a creativity box of resources, we asked participating schools to create a window freeze, display board, Digital display, PowerPoint slide, poster, or something similar that celebrates their community and shows us what's important to them. Every school that submitted an entry will be invited onto our campus for an in-person visit (once it is safe to do so) to find out more about what our community means to us. The winning entry will also receive a VIP behind the scenes tour of our newly redeveloped Warwick Arts Centre along with other surprises. The winner will be announced shortly so watch this space!

Feedback from the teachers has been overwhelmingly positive and so we are now exploring this model of delivery as a possible option for future opportunities that will enable more schools from a wider geographical area to explore Warwick and what we have to offer!

'Pupils really loved the morning session and engaged well in classrooms. They enjoyed the virtual tour and hearing from the students. This worked really well virtually.' - Year 8 Teacher

Across the summer series...

Below you can see some key stats:*

We worked with **10 schools**, and **1707 students**

We worked with schools as far afield as **London**

Sessions were delivered by **10** academic departments including GSD, Maths and Philosophy

*accurate at time of print

Warwick Scholars Award Nomination

We are delighted that our Warwick Scholars programme has been shortlisted for the 'Highest Impact University Initiative Award' at the Student Social Mobility Awards. We are particularly pleased that we were nominated for this award by our students. The winners will be announced at the House of Lords in September. Warwick Scholars is a comprehensive programme of activities, opportunities, and experiences; designed to level the playing field and aid social mobility. By 2020 our Warwick Scholars community comprised 300+ students and will continue to grow to beyond 1000 in the next few years. Our aim for Warwick Scholars was to create a programme and a community which addressed the barriers to access, progression and success which students from the least socially mobile communities experience.

One of our current Warwick Scholars had this to say about the pre-entry part of the programme:

"I am absolutely overjoyed and so grateful to have got my place at a university like Warwick on a course I couldn't be more excited about. Especially considering that if you had told me 2 years ago that I'd be going to university at all I wouldn't have believed it. And I truly believe applying to Warwick scholars was what changed it all. So, thank you so much... I am so grateful to you and the Warwick Scholars team for all the opportunities, experiences and people I've met so far."

And one of our graduating Warwick Scholars, who has also been shortlisted for two individual Student Social Mobility awards said:

"It has been an amazing 3 years at Warwick and I am really grateful for all the experiences and memories that have been created. It's great to see Warwick Scholars being shortlisted for this award and I hope it all goes well"

You can find out more about the programme at: www.warwick.ac.uk/warwickscholars and the Student Social Mobility Awards at: www.studentsocialmobilityawards.org.uk



Pathways at Warwick Summer Conferences

Throughout the months of July and August the Pathways students at Warwick were involved in their programmes summer conference. The Pathways to Banking and Finance conference ran from Monday 19th -22nd July, the Pathways to Law conference ran from Monday 26th - 29th July and the Pathways to Engineering conference, as part of the Sutton Trust Summer conference ran from Monday 2nd - 6th August.

During the conference, students had the chance to find out about university life, experience online academic lectures and meet with lots of professionals. This conference gave students the opportunity to find out what it is like to study at university and whether a career in sector is right for them.

All of the conferences were virtual and took place on Zoom and the Sutton Trust Online (STO) platform. STO acted as a platform for student to log in each day, to watch pre-recorded content, see a timetable of activities and read academic content. Built into the platform, there was also a speed mentoring platform where students were able to speak to student ambassadors, staff across universities and industry professionals. Despite not being able to hold a face-to-face conference, the level of engagement and enthusiasm was fantastic throughout the week. At the celebration events, it was clear how valuable and beneficial students had found the opportunity and it was clear to see how their confidence had grown!

Warwick Sutton Trust Summer School 2021



What happened?

In the first week of August, we ran our second digital Sutton Trust Summer School at Warwick. Over 5 days, around 100 Year 12 students from across the UK took part in a range of activities across 6 subject streams:

- Classics, History of Art, TV & Film
- The Biology of Health and Care: Prevention, Detection, Treatment and Technology
- Law
- Engineering & Computer Science
- Education, Psychology and GSD
- The Colonial Hangover Project: An interdisciplinary Summer School

The week was led by WP Staff alongside 23 Group Leaders (current Warwick students) and over 20 university academic staff.

What did participants do?

During the week, Year 12 students had access to the Sutton Trust's bespoke platform (Sutton Trust Online). Each day of the summer school had its own webpage with pre-recorded videos and activities for students to work through at their own pace. This laid the foundations for live academic sessions during the week where students had the opportunity to learn directly from academic staff through Zoom. Topics ranged across the subject streams from criminal law to education inequalities, Covid-19 treatment, classical mythology, the politics of statues and autonomous agents (or robots)!

There were lots of fun and games too, with a variety of social events on each day. Students took part in a live cupcake baking, for example, had a scavenger hunt and played Mafia, all through Zoom.

Participants explored other aspects of university life - finding out what Student Opportunity do, and what opportunities there are to go abroad as a student through Student Mobility.

Finally, as they are preparing to write their personal statements and apply for student finance, we are grateful to colleagues in UG Admissions and Student Funding for taking the time to answer the participants' questions about these important aspects of the application process.

What did students think?

At the end of the week, we closed the summer school with a celebration event. Students reflected on their experience with their Group Leaders and shared their thoughts and achievements with us. They also posted messages on a 'thank you' Padlet wall:

"Three words I would use to describe this week are amazing, interesting, and intellectual!"

"I learned a lot from you all and you made the experience really fun"

"Learnt so many cool things which I can't wait to write about in my personal statements!"

"Thank you to the academics!!!! Honestly the information and skills I realised I have has been amazing and have made this week super informative."

"I was really nervous for this summer school but you were really supportive and answered all the questions enthusiastically"

"I was nervous to do this summer school in case It made me not want to come to university but it has done the opposite and made me so excited to apply to university"

Thank you!

All the WP staff, academic staff and Group Leaders involved were very impressed by the ideas, enthusiasm and ambitions of students involved in the summer school. We'd like to thank them - and all of the Warwick staff and students involved - for taking part in the event.



Warwick Bright Stars Digital Programme 2021

This year, **more than 500 pupils from all around the UK and even the world** took part with us in a set of digital activities at home or at school to raise their awareness of what a university is and explore important academic subjects such as sustainability and STEM. We are so proud of their hard work and would like to invite you and your family to take part in these activities this summer! Visit our website here to see all the activities we have available: <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/whatweoffer/primary/>



Taking a look at...

Supporting Students

Starting university is an exciting time but the transition to university can be challenging at times. As a university we are committed to supporting students once they come to us but also throughout their University journey.

We recently carried out a survey with some of our WP undergraduate students to gauge which support they felt they most needed when they started University. They mentioned how to access wellbeing services, how to manage their time and how to take notes more effectively as some of the topics they wished they had known more about when starting University after Year 13. They also said that they would like to know more about the roles of academics at University and how the personal tutoring system worked.

As a result of the survey and to support our Year 13 students, we have launched a website with information on the different aspects of student life such as study skills, campus facilities, wellbeing support, career services etc. It is accessible for all students even before they arrive.

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/whatweoffer/undergraduateactivities/transitionsupport/>

Although aimed at the Warwick experience, we believe it will support other Year 13 students, when thinking about transitioning to University.



The University also offers support through many programmes and resources, in place to help students when they arrive and during their time at Warwick. The Wellbeing Support Services team is there to help students from the moment they arrive with any issues they may be having and even have online self help resources to support all students.

For academic transition, students get to meet their personal tutors and get to know more about the course and the expectations. The library and the careers team also run self paced courses and workshops on academic skills such as referencing, time management and preparing for exams, as well as being available for students all the way from the start of their career planning to securing a job.

There is also a WP Student Network which allows students to meet peers, share experiences, and feel like a member of the student community, as well as many Student Societies aimed at bringing students together with similar interests.

We know that student experiences can vary but we hope that by encouraging students to access a wide range of support and resources early on, their journeys can be successful no matter what barriers they may face.



Staff Update



We have a new staff member who joined the team a few months ago. Andrew Glassborow, our new Widening Participation Assistant, is replacing Sarah Glassborow as she takes up a new academic venture in Manchester studying Physiotherapy - we wish them the very best of luck!

Andrew Glassborow
Widening Participation Assistant

Dates for your diary

We are currently in the process of planning our events for the new academic year.

Take a look on our website

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach>
to see all the upcoming events!

Contact Us

✉ outreach@warwick.ac.uk
☎ 024 7657 3555

🌐 warwick.ac.uk/outreach
🐦 @OutreachWarwick
📷 @OutreachatWarwick