



Outreach @Warwick

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

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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 Nick Butter Conference

In November, we were delighted to host an inspirational talk from record-breaking runner Nick Butter. Nick is the first person to have run a marathon in every single country and he had quite a story to tell.

This was one of our first in-person school events since the Covid-19 pandemic and we were very excited to welcome Year 7 students from six local schools - and their teachers - onto campus. The event was part of our wide-ranging programme of activities designed to break down perceived barriers, challenge myths about university, and encourage young people to aim high. Most importantly,

we wanted the eighty Year 7 students in the audience feel motivated and inspired to achieve their dreams - no matter what they are.

Nick's talk certainly didn't disappoint. He stunned us all with tales, including a close encounter with a cheetah in the bush and the problem of having your running shoes eaten by pigs - twice!

He then turned to his more serious message about aiming high, believing in your ability to overcome obstacles, and always looking for the positive in people and places. Nick also looked back on his chance conversation with a fellow runner - and new friend - during a desert endurance race which inspired his decision to run the world. He spoke about his motivation to take on the 674-day challenge and encouraged us all to have a similar positive attitude towards our own goals.

"find something hard, don't give up - keep going at it until it gets easier. That's what I've done with my running."

"You're all at an age where you can pick what you want to do, go for it all guns blazing, and make it happen."

All of the students and staff from Lyng Hall School, Ormiston SWB Academy, President Kennedy School, Stoke Park School, Westwood Academy and Whitley Academy expressed their thanks to Nick for the talk and left with huge smiles on their faces (along with a couple of selfies with the record-breaking runner)! One member of staff commented: "What a great inspiration Nick is - not just in his sporting achievements but having struggled himself academically and physically before achieving success." The Year 7s shared a lot of feedback with us at the end, including these brilliant reflections:

"I think it was very inspiring that one person faced all those challenges but carried on"
"When you are in the middle of doing something don't give up"

We're very grateful to Nick for sharing his story with us and to all of the teachers and young people who attended. It was a fantastic event, and we can't wait to welcome more schools onto campus over the rest of the year.

Warwick Scholars Social Event



It has been such an amazing insight into the culture and atmosphere of Warwick. I look forward to other future events, particularly the online mentoring!"

– A student at the social event.



We were delighted to be able to invite our entire Warwick Scholars community (both our sixth form access programme students and our current undergraduate students) onto campus for the first ever whole programme social event this December!

So far this term, our Warwick Scholars access programme students have had information and guidance about personal statements, student finance, choosing the right course and what student life is like at Warwick, as well as a few opportunities to catch up with each other virtually. Since then, they've been working hard on their UCAS applications and getting to grips with the demands of year 13.

So, it was fantastic for them to be able to meet their undergraduate mentors in person, and finally get to join their fellow Warwick Scholars face-to-face. The aim of the event was for the mentors and the students to get to know each

other a bit better and to discuss what they wanted to achieve through their mentoring. We talked about how important it is to be an active participant in a mentoring relationship and to be open to challenge, because that's how we can improve.

We were then pleased to welcome a large group of our undergraduate Warwick Scholars to join the event - in addition to those who are mentors - and they proved to be fantastic role models for our access students, having successfully transitioned to Warwick from one of our access routes in the past few years. It was fantastic to see students of all ages networking and making new friends.

One of the main aims of Warwick Scholars has always been to create a community of students who may have faced similar educational, social, or financial barriers to higher education, and this event was a real showcase of how that community is growing and thriving.

Pathways Launches

We have successfully recruited our new cohorts of year 12 students onto each of the Pathways programmes here at Warwick. Over the last 3 weeks, we have delivered launch events and welcomed all of the students onto the programmes. In total we had just over 100 students attend one of the launch events, in addition to a separate launch event for parent and carers.

Each launch event involved an introduction to the programme, a virtual campus tour, student finance talk and a talk from a pathways alumni. In addition, we also had a welcome talk from an industry professional within the sector at each launch including DLA Piper, Natwest & National Grid. The launch event also gave the students the opportunity to meet the staff and student mentors who will be working on the programme, as well as getting to know their peers on the programme more through icebreakers and a welcome wall.

For the parent & carer launch, we also included information about the UCAS process and how to support their student throughout the 2 year Pathways programme.

We were really pleased with the engagement and participation of all the students and can't wait to get to know them more and support them over the next two years!



I found the event very useful overall, already feeling like I have a headstart in terms of gathering information about university"

Pathways to Banking & Finance student 2021

THE GREAT WP ANNUAL REVIEW



Day 1

Last year we welcomed our first cohort to our new Pathways to Engineering stream. The programme was a huge success with students and proved popular with employers, so much so, we decided to put on an additional event - our Pathways to Engineering insight evening. The evening was held on Zoom with five engineering companies: Boeing, Royal Mail, National Grid, Scuderia, AlphaTauri, and SSE. One student said, "I think it was really beneficial and I've learned a lot of things related to engineering that I didn't know before". An employer said "Thanks so much for organising yesterday's event. I very much enjoyed the experience.". The event was a huge success, and really showed that the appetite for the programme was there from both students and employers. As the programme was in its first year, to put on an additional event because the demand was there, really justifies the decision to add an extra Pathways stream!

- Paul Beaufoy



Day 2

We've been very busy this term visiting so many schools to talk to hundred of students about their futures and choices. We've also ordered over 5000 items and freebies for our school visits - we hope they've found it useful and that they've enjoyed the pens, badges and guides!

- Andrew Glassborow



Day 3

In September, we were really excited to hit the road and head back into schools for the first time since March 2020. We have loved being able to speak to young people, families and teachers face to face this term and looking forward to many more exciting visits in 2022!

- Vicki Hill and Emily Cannon



Day 4

We were delighted to be able to invite our entire Warwick Scholars community onto campus for the first ever whole programme social event this December! It was a really fun evening, and it was fantastic to see the Warwick Scholars community growing and thriving before our very eyes! We are really looking forward to future on-campus events in the new year! - Jo Bowers

Day 5

A highlight this term was having our IntoUniversity colleagues along with students from Southfields and Frederick Bird Primary Schools on campus for five of their Focus Week Graduation events. We are so proud of our partnership with our local IntoUniversity Centre based in Hillfields in Coventry. We hope the students enjoyed exploring our campus, asking questions and we hope to see them all again in the new year!

- Katie Barlow



Day 6

One of my highlights of this year would have to be running a 2nd Digital Sutton Trust Summer School in August, with some new subjects on board that really got our participants thinking about global issues, such as educational inequality - Catherine McNicholl



Day 7

My 2nd Highlight was during this term, when we finally got to invite British Endurance Athlete Nick Butter onto campus to speak to Year 7 pupils from local schools. This was one of the events that marked our return to in-person, on-campus activity and it was so good to have everyone back!

- Catherine McNicholl



Taking a look at...

The WCN Roman Coventry and Warwickshire Project

The WCN Roman Coventry and Warwickshire Project is an ambitious project which aims to bring Coventry and Warwickshire's Roman past to every school and schoolchild in Coventry. Inspired by Coventry City of Culture 2021, our aim is to make our local Coventry schools the most culturally enriched in the country, offering equal opportunities to all pupils irrespective of background or ability. We currently have over 40 Coventry schools signed up for the project, so if you would like your school to be involved, do get in touch by emailing Dr Paul Grigsby at paul.grigsby@warwick.ac.uk The project is being designed and led by Dr Paul Grigsby of the Classics Dept. here at the University of Warwick, where his role is to run the Warwick Classics Network alongside Prof. Michael Scott.

Here at the University of Warwick we want to take the opportunity afforded by Coventry City of Culture 2021 to help tackle inequalities in the city through cultural programming and engagement. Our aim is to use Coventry's heritage assets - such as the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum and Lunt Roman Fort - to help bring a wider range of subjects to the schools of Coventry, providing enrichment and cultural capital centred on Coventry's unique ancient Roman past - the very beginnings of Coventry's history and cultural diversity.

As part of the project, we have developed a complete 13 part suite of Teacher Resources to help with the teaching of Rome and Romans at KS2 and KS3 and to introduce Roman Coventry as part of enrichment sessions or extracurricular clubs warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/

warwickclassicsnetwork/romancoventry/resources/complete/. We have also created an online A-Z of Roman Coventry, something we hope local pupils can continue to help us develop further. Our resources also cover aspects of diversity in Roman Britain. We are especially excited for pupils to engage creatively with this project, with prizes on offer for winning schools. warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/warwickclassicsnetwork/romancoventry/creativecoventry/

Creations based on our project from Blue Coat School are presently on display at Lunt Roman Fort. We are also developing a set of travelling artefact collections with local museums such as the Herbert Gallery and Warwickshire Museum, and are developing virtual resources of local artefacts with the help of Warwick Manufacturing Group. youtu.be/GTyu5w6bOXM

We have been involved in many of the events surrounding the Resonate Festival and Coventry City of Culture, including the Words and Voices Roadshow on 19th September: warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/warwickclassicsnetwork/romancoventry/events/wordsandvoices/ and we held an event on Ancient Feasting at the Herbert Gallery on 11th December with real Roman cooking and the start of our giant mosaic which we aim to complete for our April Resonate Festival on campus. warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/warwickclassicsnetwork/romancoventry/events/feast/

If you are a school interested in contributing to our giant mosaic, please contact Dr Grigsby. [✉ paul.grigsby@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:paul.grigsby@warwick.ac.uk)

Do you have Year 12 students who would be interested in attending a summer school at a leading university? Applications for the Sutton Trust university summer schools are now OPEN!

The summer school at Warwick is taking place from **Tuesday 23 - Friday 26 August** - in-person and on our campus! We can't wait to have students back on campus again for residential events.

There are six subject streams available at Warwick - please visit our website or the Sutton Trust website for more information.

www.suttontrust.com



warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/news/newsletter/ to be added to our bi-monthly events email bulletin to be the first to hear about our upcoming face to face and virtual events, programmes and activities!

Contact Us

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