



Outreach @Warwick

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Issue 18
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Welcome back to the Widening Participation and Outreach Team Newsletter!
Read on to find out more about what we've been up to over the past few months.

Student Progression Team 2020

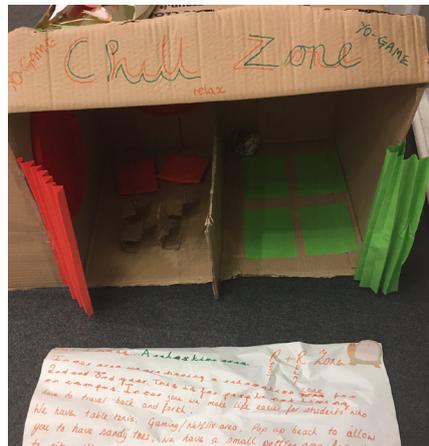
We kicked-off 2020 with a bang by launching this year's cycle of the Student Progression Team for local schools!

The Student Progression Team (regularly shortened to SPT) is a group mentoring project for Year 8 and Year 9 students in the local area. Small clusters of students from these year groups were matched with a current university student and then had a series of sessions with them. The project launched in January in-school with an hour-long session, allowing the students to get to know their mentors. It was all hands-on deck in the WP team to run 16 launches during the week!



The mentoring sessions following the launch focused on a range of different topics including: GCSE options, future pathways, university life, careers and study skills. The mentors have

thoroughly enjoyed running these sessions and we were all sad to see the sessions come to an end.



To celebrate the end of the project, the Year 8s and Year 9s, along with their teachers, were invited to the University in March for a Campus Day. During the day, students explored the campus with their mentors, met some more university students working as Student Ambassadors, took part in a society taster session and completed a short group project. A particular highlight were the sessions offered by the Magic Soc, Quiz Soc, First Aid Soc and Warwick Animal Society!

SPT is now in its 9th year and the WP team has thoroughly enjoyed running the project again this year. We would like to thank all of the schools involved in the programme for their support: Champion School, Harris Church of England Academy, Nicholas Chamberlaine, Sidney Stringer Academy, Trinity Catholic School, Barr's Hill School, Ernesford Grange Community Academy, Lyng Hall School, North Leamington School, Stoke Park School, Whitley Academy, Bishop Ullathorne, Finham Park 2, Foxford School, West Coventry Academy and Westwood Academy. We wish all of their students the best of luck for the future!

Our Programmes in Numbers...

This term the WP team have...*

Attended **38** in-school events

Held **12** on-campus events where **500** children attended

Hosted **3** School Warwick Visits with over **100** students in attendance

*accurate at time of print

Inside this issue: ▶ University Explorers ▶ Young Carers Awareness Day ▶ Sutton Scholars Virtual Campus Sessions ▶ Pathways to Banking ▶ A Spotlight on British Science Week

University Explorers

University Explorers is run in collaboration with Coventry and Warwickshire Virtual Schools for children in Year 6 currently in Local Authority Care. Now in its fifth year, the project gives young people the opportunity to explore University over four Saturdays through a variety of activities, aiming to build confidence and motivation in addition to experiencing a range of exciting subject taster sessions. Young people work closely with their expedition leaders, University of Warwick students, throughout the four weeks to support them through their University Exploration journey and allowing them to explore the university.

The Explorers have taken part in an exciting range of subject taster sessions, ranging from debating whether batman or superman should take over our government with PAIS to finding aliens in the Planetarium with Physics, taking part in thought adventures of pirates with Philosophy and designing paper gliders with

engineering. Student Societies, such as Improv Theatre and Gaana Dance energised the group and the Arts Centre allowed Explorers to embrace their creativity as they were taken on an adventure around the University campus. Many thanks to colleagues and students across the University of Warwick for supporting with fantastic sessions, allowing many of our young people to explore new topics for the first time and to experience many of the fantastic opportunities the University of Warwick offers.

The engineering session was facilitated by Helen Luckhurst and Amelia Westbury from WMG, supported by HVM Catapult, where they facilitated a practical activity in which children made paper gliders - Helen has said:

"I was impressed by the children's enthusiastic approach to the iterative design process: making, testing and adapting their hooped gliders. They drew on their scientific knowledge, having good discussions with their

ambassadors about the forces acting on the gliders. I had a lot of fun working with this group, and I hope to meet more University Explorers next year!"

Each week our young people worked in teams to work on their 'University Explorers Challenge' working together to design their own university campus, deciding on subjects their students would study and most importantly which catering outlets would be available on campus! The Explorers presented their projects to their carers on week 4 of the project and it was great a culmination of their hard work and their confidence flourish. We received some fantastic comments from carers and supported at the end of the programme, with many noting that the project has boosted confidence (particularly when meeting new people), self-esteem and resilience.



Young Carers Awareness Day 2020

The Widening Participation Team celebrated Young Carers Awareness Day at the end of January by inviting staff from Warwickshire Young Carers and Young Carers Coventry onto campus to raise awareness amongst students and staff.

A young carer is someone under the age of 18 who helps look after someone in their household who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or

alcohol. They might provide physical or emotional support to the cared for or for siblings. A young adult carer is someone aged 16-25 who carries out these responsibilities. According to the Carers Trust, there are at least 700,000 young carers and 376,000 young adult carers in the UK. Many young carers and young adult carers can find balancing their caring role with their school-, college- or work-life challenging and the Widening

Participation team is working hard to ensure that as many young carers as possible have the opportunity to access our programmes and activities.

To mark the occasion, the WP team supported Warwickshire Young Carers with their brilliant social media campaign - focusing around what/who "A young carer is..." - and set up a stall with them and Young Carers Coventry in the University's Students Union to speak to students and staff about what being a young carer means. We ended the day by attending the University's staff carers network to speak to staff members with caring responsibilities about supporting this group of young people.

The team thoroughly enjoyed supporting the young carers centres and were very grateful to be given the opportunity to support such a fantastic day! For more information about the centres and the support they provide to young carers, please go to: www.warwickshireyoungcarers.org.uk/ and www.youngcarerscoventry.com/



Year 12 Pathways to Banking & Finance visit Deutsche Bank

On Tuesday 28th January 2020, 49 Year 12 students on the Pathway to Banking & Finance programme took a coach down from the University of Warwick to Deutsche Bank in London. The students arrived at 12pm and were joined by students from the Pathways programme at LSE.

All the students had a welcome talk from James Rivett (pictured below) who works in Investor Relations for the bank. James gave an overview of the day, and encouraged all the students to network with professionals throughout the day and soak in the working environment.

The students then had a talk from an academic at LSE about finance in the city before breaking for lunch. After lunch students had the opportunity to network with several different professionals from Deutsche Bank. Professionals rotated around between different groups and hosted a mini Q&A.



In preparation for the last session, the students were given a briefing from Andrea Macoveschi who works in Professional Recruitment for the Bank. Andrea explained to the students the importance of networking and creating a good impression and gave the students some top tips on how to come across well. The final session was a network opportunity with difference employers from the financial sector. Some of the banks that were present

included PwC, NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland, Alpha FMC, Augmentum and Veritas Investment.

The students then had a closing talk from the Sutton Trust before departing. The students got a huge amount from the day, one saying

"I learnt the types of things recruiters are looking for in the banking area and how investment banks operate on a daily basis and what they do."

Warwick Sutton Scholars Virtual Campus Sessions

Over the last month, our year 9 cohort has been engaging in two Virtual Campus Sessions. Never having run our events online, it was a quick learning curve to try and set these up using Microsoft Teams Live Events. Our first event was a Quiz Group Competition where the young people were competing in three rounds against other groups, rehearsing their knowledge of our project theme this year: Food and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as being tested on some mentor fun facts! Our aim was to engage the young people

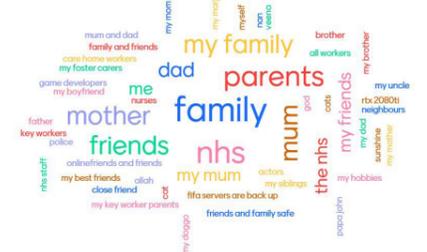
on the Teams platform in a fun way and it definitely worked. Our second event was focused on helping the groups finish their research projects on food and sustainability. Lots of hard work going on with the young people reviewing and analysing all of the research done over the last academic year, finalising their intervention design and compiling it all into a winning portfolio! A team of academic judges will be reviewing their work to help us identify this year's group project winner. But we are not just looking at academic performance,

mentors will also be reviewing how the young people have worked and developed as a team which is one of the key skills we are really interested in at Warwick Sutton Scholars. Finally, one of the highlights running these online events has definitely been to re-connect with the young people and hear their thoughts about how they are managing to relax and stay positive during the lockdown. Below some examples from our icebreaker Mentimeter surveys!

What is the best thing that happened to you this week?



Who are you most grateful for at the moment?



A Spotlight on...

British Science Week

If we cast our minds back to March (yes this may seem like a long time ago!), we were privileged enough at Warwick to host a number of events during British Science Week (6th - 15th March).

Under the name Slice of Science, we held a large-scale Family Day on Sunday 11th March, hosting over 500 of you, ranging from 0 to 89 years young. The day coincided with International Women's Day and was designed to promote our wonderful Science and Technology departments to young women of all ages. We wanted to inspire a new wave of girls and women to engage with STEM through an inter-generational learning approach - encouraging both adults and children to engage with some fascinating, fun and impactful projects happening on their doorstep.

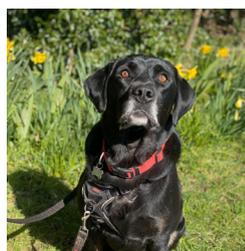
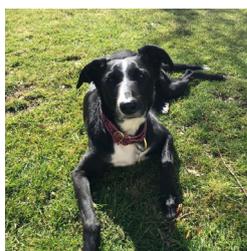
We held an afternoon of interactive workshops, hands on, tabletop activities and fun filled lectures designed to get you thinking about Science in a different way! We explored how to Freeze a Human, got squishy with slime and learned about how to code. We even had a special guest appearance from Rolf the Campus Cat!

We also held a Schools Event, aimed at year 9, young women from the local area. We were proud to welcome Ernesford Grange Academy, West Coventry Academy and Sidney Stringer Academy on to our campus for a day of STEM Taster sessions and a walk around our campus (event the weather was lovely for us!)



Paws for Thought

Whilst working from home our team have had their colleagues replaced with some furry friends. As well as their own pups, a number of our team walk dogs for the elderly and vulnerable who struggle to get out. Take a look at some of our work from home buddies and share the puppy love...



DIGITAL RESOURCES:

We understand this is a challenging time for students and teachers. Warwick University has created a Digital Activity page for schools that is available for information, guidance and support. Please visit:

www.warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visits/schools/digitalresources

STAY SAFE



STAY HOME.

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