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: Campion 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
Year 12 Pathways to Banking & Finance

On Tuesday 26th 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 University Explorers programme at LSE.

The students then had a welcome talk 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 them 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.

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 them 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.

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 this role and it can be difficult balancing their caring role with their school, college, work or university.

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 students and staff. Many noting that the project has boosted confidence (particularly when meeting new people), self-esteem and resilience.

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 lockdown. Below some examples from our icebreaker Mentimeter surveys!
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.

Contact Us

outreach@warwick.ac.uk
024 7657 3555

warwick.ac.uk/outreach
@OutreachWarwick
@OutreachtWarwick