University Explorers 2027

Support for Care Experienced Young People in Year 6
3 November 2026

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Programme overview
- Key activities
- Benefits for participants
- Registration details
- Q&A

Programme overview

- Target group: Children in Care, aged 10-11 (Year 6)
- Four days over four weeks, on campus
- Aims to provide a positive introduction to HE, build confidence, help the development of a peer network, and develop a range of key transferable skills
- Led by staff from the Widening Participation and Social Mobility team, in partnership with the Virtual Schools in Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull
- Supported by trained student ambassadors
- Contribution from Academics
- Underpinned by evidence

Dates for 2027

Thursday 25th February
Friday 5th March
Thursday 11th March
Friday 19th March

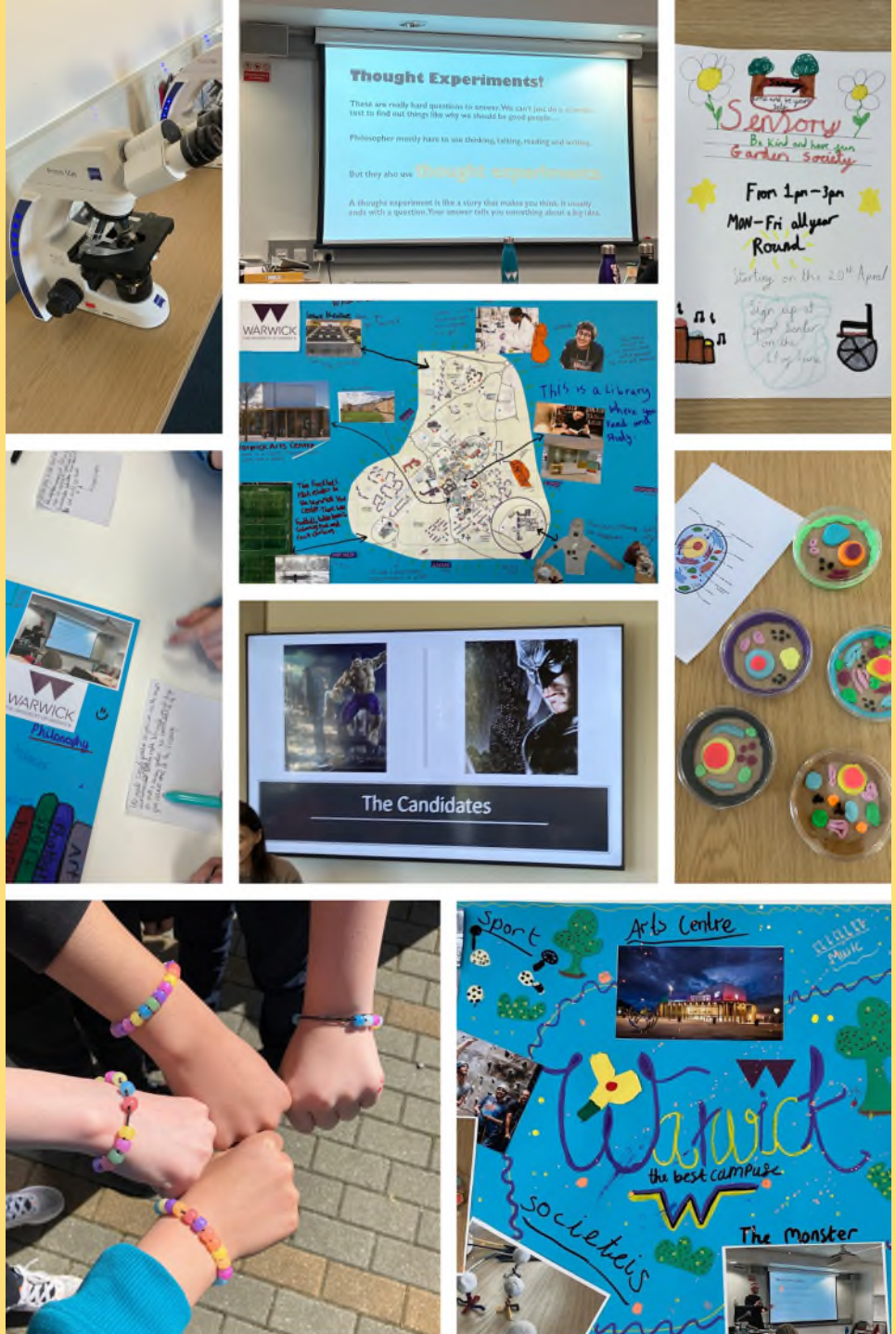
All sessions run 10:00-14:30 on campus at the University of Warwick

Additional details will be shared closer to the time.



Key activities

- Campus exploration – university facilities, lecture theatres, student spaces
- Academic taster sessions – fun, age-appropriate subjects
- Learn about societies, student life and future pathways
- Group project – teamwork and creativity

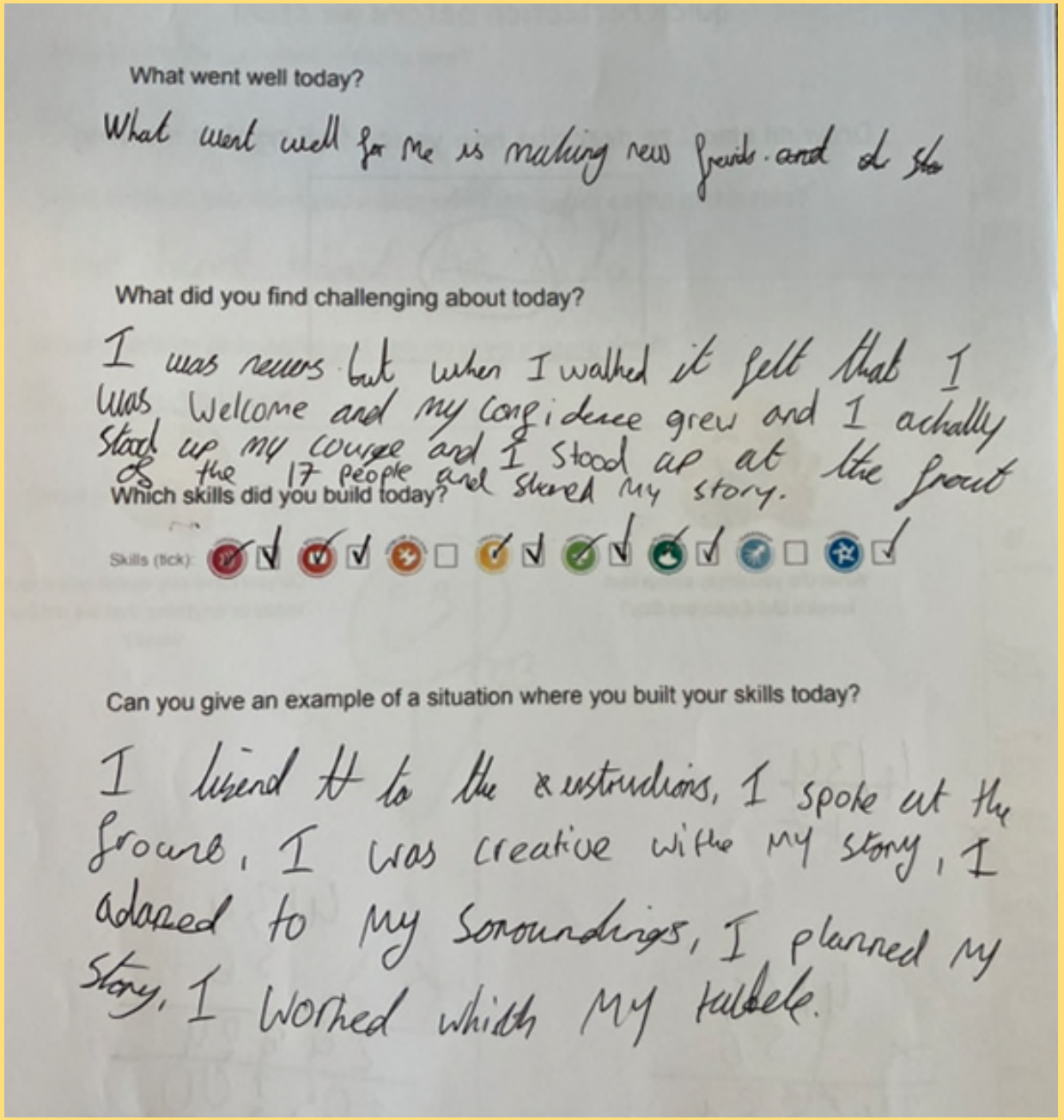


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Essential Skills – Skills Builder



Reflective journal



What went well today?

What went well for me is making new friends and d the

What did you find challenging about today?

I was nervous but when I walked it felt that I was welcome and my confidence grew and I actually stood up my courage and I stood up at the front of the 17 people and shared my story.

Which skills did you build today?

Skills (tick):

Can you give an example of a situation where you built your skills today?

I listend to the instructions, I spoke at the ground, I was creative with my story, I adapted to my surroundings, I planned my story, I worked whith my tubbele.

Benefits for participants

- Social confidence – engaging with new people in a safe setting
- Understanding university life – demystifying Higher Education
- Future planning – awareness of academic and career options
- Positive experience – building motivation and self-belief



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- Pre- and post-surveys for pupils
- Post-programme feedback from parents, carers, teachers and student ambassadors, and virtual schools

Pupil voice

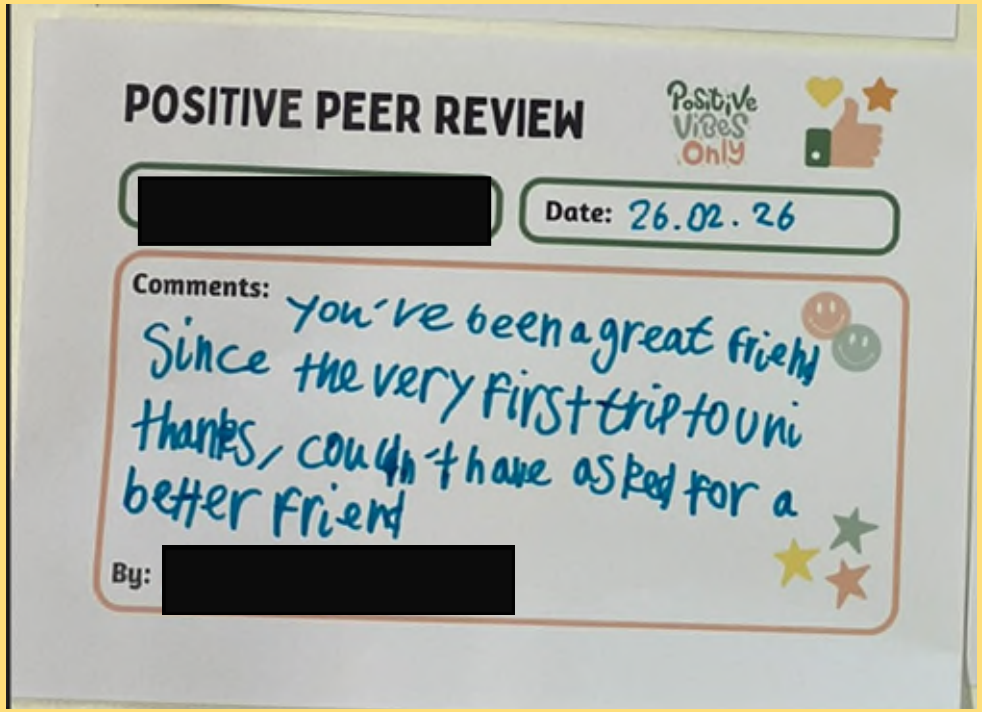
3 words to describe how you felt at the end of the programme

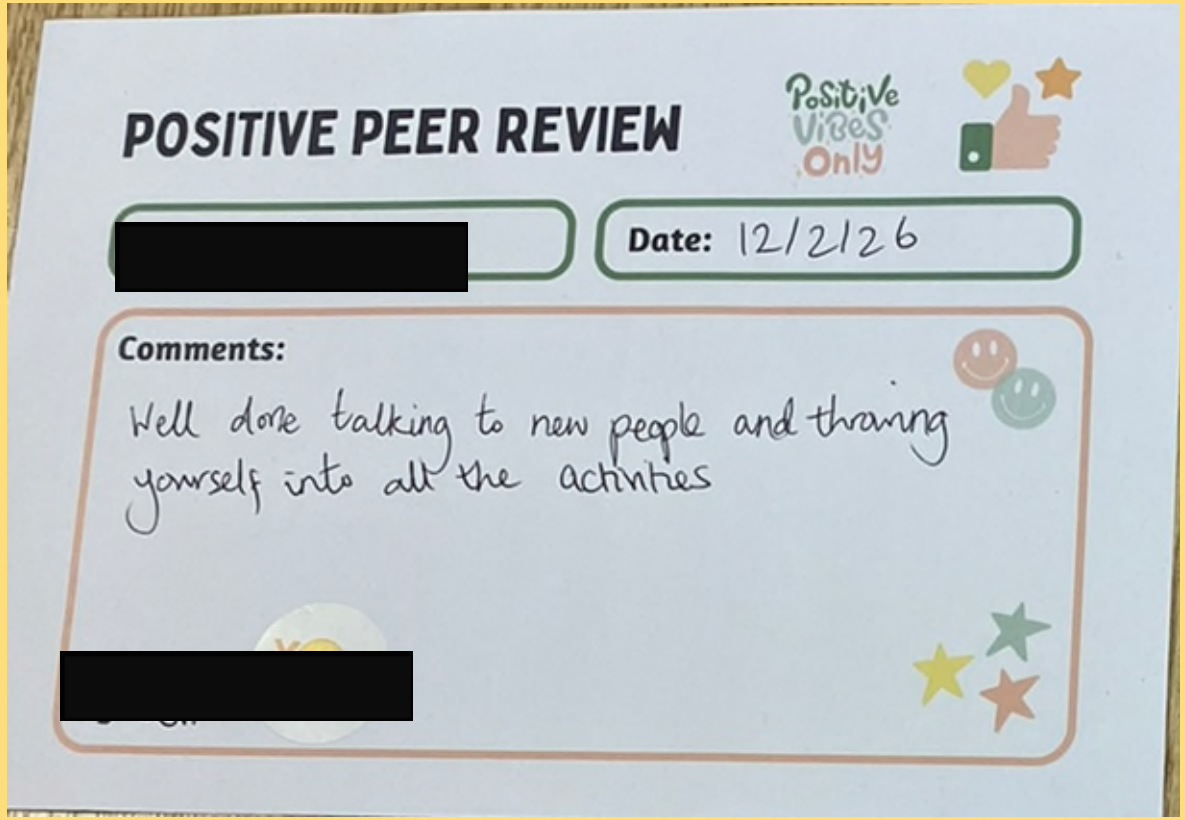


Pupil Voice


How big universities are
What uni is like
There are lots of courses and a lot to choose from
Learning About University
I have learnt to communicate with others confidently
Friendship
Team work
How the people work and how to get a nice job
Developing Skills and Confidence


Engineering because it was fun to do coding and watch it swirl
Philosophy = love of wisdom
Physics because we made bracelets and learnt about UV light
The campus tour because we discovered different activities
Favourite Activities and Experiences
"It has been really fun to learn about university. Thank you."


POSITIVE PEER REVIEW
Positive Vibes Only
[redacted]
Date: 26.02.26
Comments:
You've been a great friend since the very first trip to uni thanks, couldn't have asked for a better friend
By: [redacted]


POSITIVE PEER REVIEW
Positive Vibes Only
[redacted]
Date: 12/2126
Comments:
Well done talking to new people and throwing yourself into all the activities
[redacted]

Parents, Carers and Ambassador Feedback

"It has increased her confidence and pushed her to believe that she can go to university herself one day"– parent/carer

Thank you for giving him the chance to see the university and experience this– teacher

"'Her confidence has grown, she has made some lovely friends and is looking forward to starting uni."– parent/carer

"There's nothing better than watching the students we've supported in the past few weeks leaving with confidence, satisfaction and big smiles– Student ambassador

"Many of the participants made new friendships and gained confidence around meeting new people, which will benefit them in the future." – Student Ambassador

Registration

- Invitations will be sent via Virtual Schools in Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull
- Pupils selected based on suitability and potential benefit

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/virtual-school

https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/support-services/solihull-virtual-school/

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/school-attendance/warwickshire-virtual-school/7

Q&A

- Opportunity for questions







Thank you

Contact:

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https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/whatweoffer/pre-16-programmes/



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