



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

UniTracks

WARWICK YOUNG ACHIEVERS PROGRAMME

Students & Parents Guide 2019/2020

EVERY YOUNG PERSON HAS THE POTENTIAL TO GO TO UNIVERSITY – INCLUDING YOU

Your teacher thinks you have that potential, which is why they have given you this brochure.

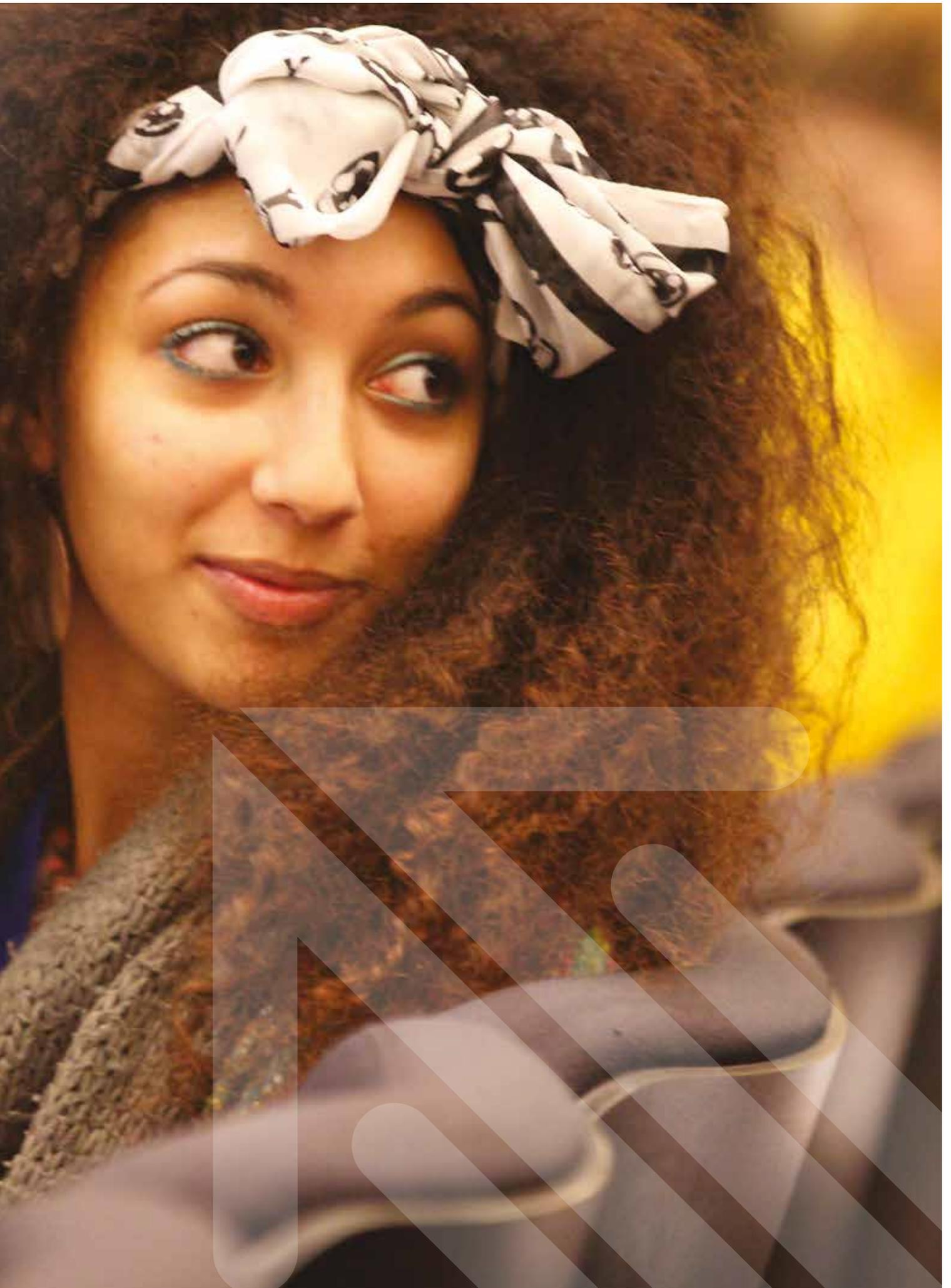
They want you to be a part of the UniTracks programme, which has been designed for students like you, to help you decide what pathway to follow after school.

By being a part of UniTracks, you will have the chance to:

- ▶ Step outside your comfort zone through exploring new subjects
- ▶ Discover hidden talents through projects and challenges
- ▶ Develop the skills that universities and future employers look for, such as teamwork and communication
- ▶ Work towards improving your academic grades
- ▶ Make new friends from across the country

UniTracks is here to encourage you to apply for and be successful in gaining a place at a leading research intensive university in the future. We will help you explore all of your options so you can make a fully informed decision about what pathway to follow after school or college. As an example, some of our previous UniTracks participants have gone on to study at universities like Birmingham, Cardiff, Exeter, King's College London, Southampton, and Nottingham and Warwick; others have gone onto apprenticeships.

By the end of your time with us, we hope you will have grown in confidence in your own abilities; developed key 'transferable' skills; be more knowledgeable about what university has to offer you, and be well on your way to achieving your true potential!



WHAT CAN UNITRACKS DO FOR YOU?

Each year of UniTracks has a different focus, designed to help you think about your next steps and to help you explore different options for your future.

YEAR 10: **ASPIRATION**

**WHAT CAN I ACHIEVE?
WHY SHOULD I GO TO UNIVERSITY?**

In Year 10, you will visit Warwick's campus several times! You will take part in up to two different projects, working by yourself and with the other UniTracks students from your school.

Through these projects, you will develop important skills like teamwork and communication, and your confidence too. The projects might be based in subjects you haven't studied before, but this is all designed to help you work out what you might like to do in the future!

YEAR 11: **ATTAINMENT**

GET THE GRADES YOU WANT!

Year 11 is an important year for you and we want to support you in getting the best grades possible! You will be invited to attend a 3-day Revision 'Bootcamp' during the Easter holidays which we hope will boost your confidence ahead of your final GCSE exams.





WHAT'S HAPPENING WHEN?

Each academic year, you will need to take part in at least one of the activities on offer.

A lot of our events take place on Saturdays or during school holidays, to make sure you aren't missing out on too many school days!

The group projects in year 10 last for about 10 weeks during the Spring Term, and you will be expected to work on these alongside your school studies - please make sure you let us know about any other activities (such as Duke of Edinburgh Award or work experience) that might affect you taking part.



"UniTracks provides each student with an invaluable and unique experience, by exposing them to a world of opportunity. Personally, UniTracks has completely changed my perception of university and what I wish to pursue post-education. I owe a lot to the programme and the people behind-the-scenes for offering me that stepping stone I would have missed out on. If you have the chance to apply I would advise you to not think twice and grab the opportunity with both hands."

Annissa, Year 12,
Bordesley Green Girls'
School, Birmingham



AUTUMN TERM

- Y10 ▶ Launch Event on campus
"We Are UniTracks" Project
- Y11 ▶ Revision Skills Seminar –
"Get the Grades You Want"

SPRING TERM

- Y10 ▶ Group Projects
- Y11 ▶ GCSE Revision Bootcamp

SUMMER TERM

- Y10 ▶ Summer School opportunities
(NB limited number of places)
- Y11 ▶ Revision Support following the GCSE
Revision Bootcamp



WHAT'S THE PROGRAMME LIKE?

Don't just take our word for it. Below are some testimonies from current and former UniTracks Programme students.

"Joining the UniTracks programme was one of the best choices I could have made for my future. At times I was confused about what I wanted to do after I left school and was unsure if university was for me. But through UniTracks, I was given guidance about the important decisions I would make. 5 years on and I can still see the positive influence the programme has had in my life. Not only did it provide me with academic guidance, but the programme gave me the confidence to believe in myself and my potential. I was able to develop skills that have stayed with me and have been influential in my day to day life as I study Biomedical Science at Warwick University. The programme also inspired me to become a Student Ambassador so that I could have the opportunity to encourage others as I was encouraged in the past. I cannot fully express how influential the UniTracks programme was to my life, not only did it boost my confidence but it provided me with the knowledge that I could do anything I set my mind to."

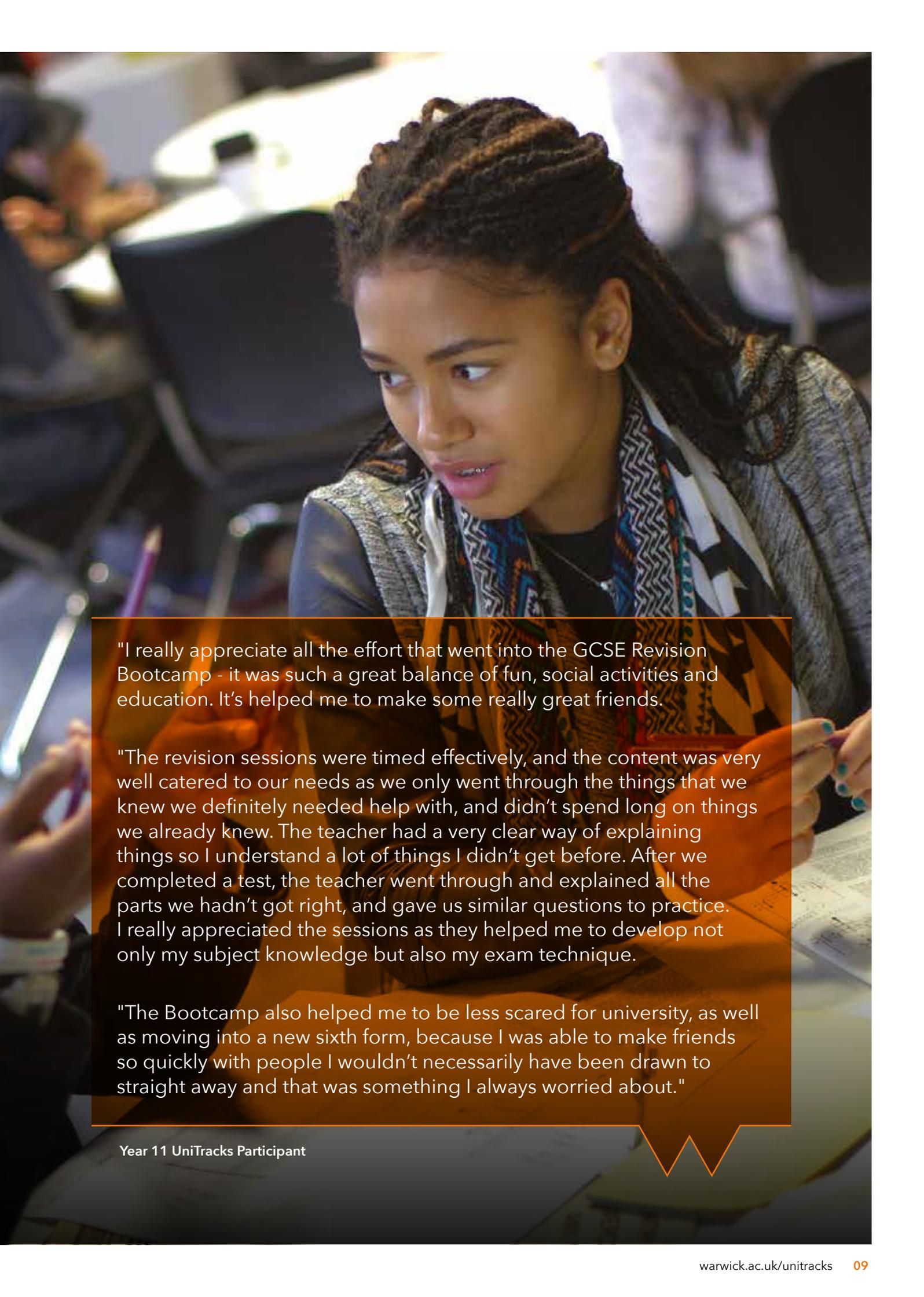
Christiana, 2nd Year undergraduate, Biomedical Science

YOUR AGREEMENT

By joining UniTracks you will get access to two years of support, designed to give you the best possible chance of achieving your ambitions and securing a place at a top university.

To make the most of this, you need to be ambitious, proactive and willing to take advantage of the many opportunities offered to you. We ask that you:

- ▶ Take part in the core activities offered each year
- ▶ Keep your contact details up to date, including changes of school, email address and home address
- ▶ Commit to the full two years of the programme
- ▶ Tell us your exam results and where you go to



"I really appreciate all the effort that went into the GCSE Revision Bootcamp - it was such a great balance of fun, social activities and education. It's helped me to make some really great friends.

"The revision sessions were timed effectively, and the content was very well catered to our needs as we only went through the things that we knew we definitely needed help with, and didn't spend long on things we already knew. The teacher had a very clear way of explaining things so I understand a lot of things I didn't get before. After we completed a test, the teacher went through and explained all the parts we hadn't got right, and gave us similar questions to practice. I really appreciated the sessions as they helped me to develop not only my subject knowledge but also my exam technique.

"The Bootcamp also helped me to be less scared for university, as well as moving into a new sixth form, because I was able to make friends so quickly with people I wouldn't necessarily have been drawn to straight away and that was something I always worried about."

Year 11 UniTracks Participant

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CARERS

WHY HAS MY SON/DAUGHTER BEEN SELECTED?

Your son/daughter has been selected to be a part of UniTracks because we feel that they will benefit greatly from the opportunities available. All the young people involved have the ability and potential to gain a place at one of the UK's leading universities.

Participants will be encouraged to choose the best university course for their interests and abilities. Former UniTracks participants have gone on study at universities such as Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Leicester, University College London and Warwick!

We recognise, however, that university might not be the right option for your son/daughter. By working with them over two years, we hope that we will have given them the confidence in themselves and all

the information possible to make the right decision for their future.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

We ask that you support your son/daughter's participation in the various opportunities open to them as a member of UniTracks. This could include attending the initial launch event; giving consent to them taking part in a group challenge or participating in other activities such as a residential event, and talking with your son/daughter about their decisions for their future.

Logistics for attendance at events is coordinated through your son/daughter's school - if you have any other questions, please email unitracks@warwick.ac.uk.





WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME INVOLVE AND HOW OFTEN WILL MY SON/DAUGHTER HAVE TO GO TO WARWICK?

Please see page 7 for further details on the programme.

We hold our main events on Saturdays or sometime during school holidays in order that the participants are not missing out on school. During their first year on the programme, depending on the activity your son/daughter gets involved in, they can expect to come onto campus three to four times. In subsequent years it is more likely to be once or twice in the year.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED WITH THIS PROGRAMME?

There are no costs involved to participating in this programme. We will reimburse parents/guardians/carers for costs relating to bringing your son/daughter to one of our events.

IS TRANSPORT TO AND FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK PROVIDED? WHAT ABOUT OTHER RESOURCES AND FOOD?

Transport should never be a barrier to a participant attending a UniTracks event. We will offer support either through reimbursing mileage or public transport costs, or by arranging travel with a coach or minibus.

Regarding resources, unless specified otherwise, we would provide these for the participants. However, there are no specific resources required to be a participant in UniTracks.

All UniTracks events are catered and we can arrange for dietary requirements, provided we know in advance.

WILL THEY HAVE TO WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORM WHEN ATTENDING EVENTS?

Most UniTracks events have a casual dress-code so no uniform necessary!

WHO WILL BE SUPERVISING MY SON/DAUGHTER AT THE EVENTS?

Events are supervised by staff from the University of Warwick's Outreach team and academic departments, and current undergraduates who work as Student Ambassadors. All staff and students who will be working with the UniTracks participants in an unsupervised capacity undergo a DBS check in line with current regulations.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Please contact the Programme Manager via email on unitracks@warwick.ac.uk or by phoning **02476 524773**

THE UNITRACKS PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

KEY STAGE 4 - YEARS 10 AND 11

These are important years for your son/daughter. The lead up to GCSE exams can be stressful and challenging and the idea of university can seem very far off.

There are key decisions during this Key Stage that can affect future progression to university and employment. Performance in GCSE exams can affect future options for study at university, and through UniTracks we will help your child develop effective exam revision skills. During this Key Stage your child will also need to make decisions about what to study post-16.

With the wide range of courses available, UniTracks will help them to consider all their options and to make an informed decision.

UniTracks helps give its members clearer information on issues such as:

- ▶ Effective GCSE exam revision
- ▶ Sixth form options
- ▶ A level course choice

We start to familiarise UniTracks members with issues relating to university, such as:

- ▶ What a university is, and how one university differs from another
- ▶ Why they might choose to study at university
- ▶ The benefits of receiving a university education
- ▶ What they need to be doing now



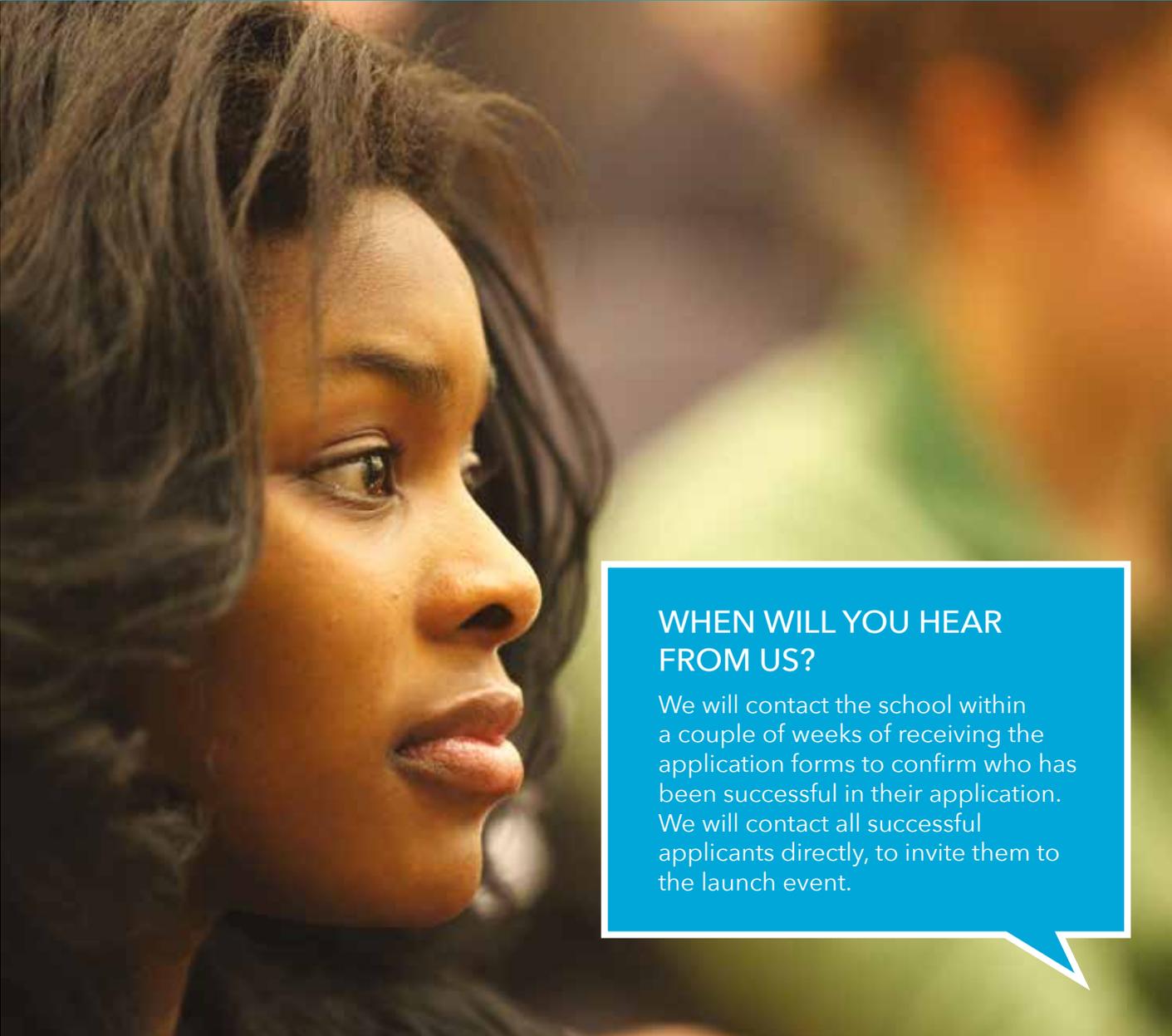


HOW TO APPLY

The application form is online - the teacher who has put you forward for the programme will give you a link to the form.

There are three parts to the application:
Participant (You) / Parent / Carer / Teacher.

When completing the application form, you will need to have a current email address for your parent/carer.



WHEN WILL YOU HEAR FROM US?

We will contact the school within a couple of weeks of receiving the application forms to confirm who has been successful in their application. We will contact all successful applicants directly, to invite them to the launch event.



WHERE WE WORK

Ulverston

Dalton-in-Furness

Barrow-in-Furness

Walney Island

Manchester

Buxton

Derby

Walsall

Birmingham

Coventry

Rugby

Redditch

Burnham-on-Crouch

Banbury

Barking and Dagenham

By joining the UniTracks Programme, your school will become part of this national network!

We hope that you will get to know participants from different parts of the country through the course of the programme, creating a new social network for you!



UniTracks

Student Recruitment
Outreach and Admissions Service
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 8UW

✉ unitracks@warwick.ac.uk

🌐 warwick.ac.uk/unitracks