

# THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

FOR KENT'S PARTNER SCHOOLS





# KENT'S OUTREACH PROGRAMME

**At the University of Kent, we believe that anyone who has the academic ability to study at university should have the opportunity to do so.**

This is why we are committed to our involvement with local secondary schools, encouraging young people to see the value of higher education and to understand the positive impact it can have on their lives.

Every year, as part of our commitment, the University delivers outreach to thousands of students across Kent and Medway. Through our progressive curriculum and our programme of outreach events, we can work with your students throughout their secondary school career, to give them a clear view of their future options. Our range of in-person and online events are specifically designed to support students, giving them the confidence to make informed choices about their future.

We monitor our work and its outcomes very closely to assess its impact. Kent works closely with a national monitoring and outreach service called the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT, [www.heat.ac.uk](http://www.heat.ac.uk)) We collect data from your students during outreach activities, which enables us to track their educational journey through HEAT. Through our data analysis, we can see:

- which of our activities are most helpful in inspiring students
- how well outreach participants do in their school qualifications
- whether they enter higher education
- how well they perform at the end of their university course.

To support you, we can share outcome data and insights about your students with you.

Based on the data we have collected over the years, and the insights this has given us, we have designed our outreach programme to maximise its impact.

Our outreach delivery is further enhanced by the support of our fantastic team of student ambassadors, all current Kent students, many of whom previously attended our partner schools.

*“I particularly enjoy knowing that we make a difference to students every time we work. Observing their developing confidence and excitement in their own potential is wonderful.”*

Kent Student Ambassador

# OUR PROGRESSIVE OUTREACH CURRICULUM

## What is a progressive curriculum?

Our progressive, or 'core' curriculum is designed to build and develop students' understanding of higher education and the range of opportunities it offers them. It is most effective when students participate in a number of different activities during their school career.

## When should students begin to engage with the progressive curriculum?

Our data indicates that progression to higher education improves when students participate in outreach activities both before and after the age of 16. Our research shows greater impact when engagement starts early, so we would advise that students participate in outreach activities from Year 7 or 8 onwards.

## What does the progressive curriculum include?

Students who follow the progressive curriculum will be able to:

- participate in up to three campus visits, which help them to see that higher education is a positive choice for them
- take part in activities focused on their post-16 and post-18 options, helping them to make informed decisions about their future.

## Our flexible approach

Outreach delivery has changed significantly over the past year and as a result we have developed a comprehensive range of online activity. This includes:

- self-guided resources
- teacher-led programme materials
- live online delivery in the form of talks and workshops.

All of this enables us to offer our partner schools the most flexible methods of delivery possible in an ever-changing learning environment.

The online outreach activity we offer is intended to enhance and complement our in-person delivery. It also offers schools additional flexibility and the opportunity to open access to outreach to larger student cohorts. Please discuss your priorities and requirements with your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator, who can recommend the most suitable activities and delivery methods for your students.

*"The students loved the session –  
I really enjoyed doing it"*

Kent Student Ambassador  
Drop Everything and Meet The Students  
event at The Charles Dickens School

# KEY ACTIVITIES

Year group	Event	Event details
7-11	Assembly talks (Zoom)	25-minute talk to introduce students to higher education and student life.
7-8	Drop Everything and Meet the Students	A one-hour activity introducing students to the university experience. In a fun and interactive way, students explore what they can study, the societies they can join and how university is different to school. Teacher-led, technology-free session.
7-8	Campus visit	A visit to the University which introduces students to a university environment as they explore the Canterbury or Medway campus with our student ambassadors and take part in fun challenges and activities.
9	University Life (online or in-school)	A one-hour workshop designed to answer the 'Who? What? When? Where? How?' questions about university. Participants are encouraged to reflect on possible reasons for going to university, what they could study there, where they might live and how studying at university differs from being at school.
10	Research-themed campus visit	A visit to the University of Kent's Canterbury or Medway campus, designed to increase students' understanding of academic life at university. Students explore a research theme and participate in both a lecture and a seminar led by academic staff or postgraduate students.
12-13	Beyond Sixth Form: Explore, Discover, Achieve	Designed to provide in-depth and regular support for students from the start of Year 12 until the end of Year 13. Programme phases include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exploring self and options</li> <li>• exploring higher education</li> <li>• discovering courses and institutions</li> <li>• applying to university</li> <li>• preparing to succeed at university.</li> </ul>

*“The whole event has been excellent, and the University of Kent contribution really valuable and much appreciated.”*

**Teacher, The Leigh UTC**

# ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

## **Our work with the University of Kent academic divisions**

Our experience over many years has shown that university outreach activities can make a real impact on students in schools and can help them to make effective choices about their future.

Kent has some of the best teaching staff in the country and they support and challenge young people to reach their full potential. Working closely with teaching staff and students within the University's academic divisions, we offer a rich and varied programme of subject-focused events to share our passion for learning and inspire students to go on to higher education. These activities run according to school interest, academic staff capacity and on identified dates throughout the academic year.

## **How will the outreach programme benefit my students?**

The outreach programme introduces students to the concept of higher education in Year 7 and builds their knowledge as they progress through secondary school. In addition, we offer opportunities for developing key skills that are necessary for educational success. Our data shows that the average attainment 8 score of disadvantaged students (those eligible for free school meals) who participated in outreach is 2.5 points higher than school average. For all outreach participants, their attainment 8 score is 3.4 points higher than school average\*.

We have also found that, for those who choose to progress to higher education, disadvantaged outreach participants are 2.2 percentage points more likely to achieve their degree than their peers who did not participate in outreach. Over 52% of these students were awarded a first or upper second class degree.\*\*

## **Partner school benefits**

All the activities outlined here are completely free to our partner schools. In addition, partner schools benefit from support and guidance provided by a named Outreach Activities Co-ordinator who is able to meet regularly with them to discuss students' needs and how to respond to them. From time-to-time partner school staff and students will also be invited to other appropriate University events and activities, such as open lectures, exhibitions and performances.

Partner school students who make an application to study at Kent may be eligible for a Kent contextual offer, see [www.kent.ac.uk/applicants/policies/contextual-admissions-policy](http://www.kent.ac.uk/applicants/policies/contextual-admissions-policy) They can also apply for our partner school scholarship awards and our stipend scholarships see [www.kent.ac.uk/outreach/scholarships-and-funding](http://www.kent.ac.uk/outreach/scholarships-and-funding)

\*Based on latest data available, from exam year 17/18

\*\*Latest data available is for 19/20 entrants

# OUR ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

We find inviting students on to campus to participate in events is a great way to familiarise them with University life, show them the quality of the facilities available and introduce them to a different style of teaching.

The table below gives a sample of events we run on campus each year. The full range of our activities is available on our website, [www.kent.ac.uk/outreach](http://www.kent.ac.uk/outreach)

Year group	Event	Event details
7-11	Lego League	An international programme designed to bring science to life for schoolchildren aged nine to 16 through themed activities including a hands-on robot challenge and scientific research.
8-9	Royal Academy of Engineering Project	A fascinating insight into the worlds of science and technology, with a chance to experience hands-on practical activities in professional-standard laboratories.
8	World Languages Day	Students spend a day on campus learning about other languages and cultures. They can try learning a new language and use the ones they are already studying to take part in practical workshops, games and fun activities.
9-11 and 12-13	Debating competitions	Multi-school events offering the opportunity for teams to compete using the British Parliamentary Debate (BDP) style.
10 and 12	Summer Schools	An opportunity for students to explore their options and experience university life at our residential summer programmes on the Canterbury campus.
12/ Level 3 – Year 1	Creative Industries Day	An event introducing the diversity of career options and progression pathways to employment within the creative industries sector.

*“Very good day, really appreciate how you set up the day and how fun the workshops were, thanks very much!”*

**Student**  
World Languages Day 2018

# FIND OUT MORE

## You can contact us at:

T: +44 (0)1227 824149

E: [outreach@kent.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@kent.ac.uk)

[www.kent.ac.uk/outreach](http://www.kent.ac.uk/outreach)



To find out more about our progression curriculum and our programme of outreach events please speak to your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator. You can also sign up to our regular bulletins by emailing [outreach@kent.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@kent.ac.uk)



For schools that are part of the Kent and Medway Progression Federation (KMPF) or the Kent and Medway Collaborative Outreach Programme (KaMCOP), activities can be accessed via KMPF's online booking portal



This brochure was produced in September 2021. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide education services as described. However, these services may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information see [www.kent.ac.uk/outreach](http://www.kent.ac.uk/outreach)

University of Kent, The Registry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ  
T: +44 1227 764000 [www.kent.ac.uk/outreach](http://www.kent.ac.uk/outreach)

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