

THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

KENT & MEDWAY PROGRESSION
FEDERATION/UNI CONNECT





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) 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

THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Our work with the Kent and Medway Progression Federation

The Kent and Medway Progression Federation (KMPF) is a partnership of local universities, colleges and over 49 schools. Together, we work to raise the aspirations and attainment of young people from backgrounds who might not otherwise consider progression to higher education. The majority of young people with whom we work are from disadvantaged backgrounds or comprise first generation higher education applicants, meaning they are the first in their immediate family to go to university.

We also provide activities as part of the Kent and Medway Collaborative Outreach Programme (KaMCOP), which is funded through Uni Connect and managed by KMPF. These activities are targeted at young people from specific wards across Kent and Medway.

How to access our wide programme of outreach events

As a KMPF school you have access to a wide programme of outreach events and activities. Examples are provided here but full details are available on the KMPF activities portal www.kmpf.org/events or our website www.kent.ac.uk/outreach

To receive our regular schools' bulletin with details of all our upcoming activities, please email outreach@kent.ac.uk

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 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	Virtual Quest Project (online) Literacy Support	This project takes students through the stages of creating a great narrative through the lens of a classic quest story. It builds concrete writing skills, while encouraging playfulness and a love of story to ignite a passion for writing and reading.
9	What Happens Next? GCSE Choices	An interactive online talk which looks at students' GCSE options and asks them to consider the importance of their choices for future opportunities.
9	The Confidence Series	Designed for students who lack self-confidence, which may prevent them from reaching their full potential in the classroom. In-school workshops are followed by a visit to our Canterbury campus.
9-13	Debating	Virtual Debate Club, Debating Tasters and an on-campus debating competition. Our Debating programme offers students the chance to develop essential skills such as critical thinking, communication and creativity through fun and engaging debating activities.
10	Research-themed campus visit	A visit to one of the University of Kent's campuses, designed to increase your 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.
10-11	What Happens Next? Level 3 Options	An interactive online talk which looks at students' Level 3 options and asks them to consider the importance of their choices for future opportunities.
10-11	Exam Success Package	A three part, online programme for students in Year 11, designed to prepare them for their upcoming GCSE exams. It gives students the opportunity to consider how they should prepare for their exams and provides guidance on coping with exam stress.
12	Succeed	A programme run over a sustained period, designed to help young people in Kent and Medway to explore the opportunities and challenges offered by higher education in a safe, inclusive environment, with the support of friendly, knowledgeable University staff and ambassadors.
12-13	Skills for Success – Sixth Form Foundations	A self-guided activity which focuses on helping students to develop the skills and knowledge needed to meet the challenges of sixth-form learning.
12-13	Where Next? Post-18 Choices	A programme of online talks designed to give your students an insight into what it is like to study at university and whether higher education is the right option for them.

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 departments, 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.**

Other benefits of working in partnership with the University of Kent

All the activities outlined here are free to KMPF schools. In addition schools benefit from support and guidance provided by our team of outreach activities co-ordinators who meet regularly with them to discuss students' needs and how to respond to them.

Students from KMPF schools 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 They can also apply for our stipend scholarships see 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

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

www.kent.ac.uk/outreach



To find out more about our programme of outreach events, please contact our team of outreach activities co-ordinators. You can also sign up to our regular bulletins by emailing 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

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

University of
Kent