

# 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 works with 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 can also work collaboratively with you to design and deliver projects specifically aimed at supporting student attainment and developing the skills which support achievement.

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 recent years 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  
on outreach activity

# KEY ACTIVITIES

Year group	Event	Event details
7-11	Assembly talks*	25-minute talk to introduce students to higher education and student life.
7-8	The Game of Student Life	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	This visit builds on the Game of Student Life to introduce students to the University campus environment. Students explore the campus, meet students and build their core thinking skills, while working as a team to complete a challenge.
8-9	What Happens Next? GCSE Choices*	An interactive talk which looks at students' GCSE options and asks them to consider the importance of their choices for future opportunities.
9	University Life*	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 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.
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 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. This includes a visit to the University of Canterbury campus.
Parents	The Value of Higher Education*	For parents with children in any year group, this talk explains the benefits and advantages of going to university and includes an opportunity for parents to ask questions.

\*Online or in school

# 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)

*"The Summer School helped me come out of my shell more and I've made a lot of friends here. I feel really included."*

### Student

Year 12 Summer School student 2022

\*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
6-9	Sustainable Futures	Students build problem-solving and teamwork skills through a series of hands-on STEM workshops with opportunities to hear more about careers in STEM from industry professionals. We also encourage students to take part in a school-based research project in the lead up to the event.
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	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 Day	Multi-school events offering the opportunity for teams to compete using the British Parliamentary Debate (BDP) style.
9-11 and 12-13	Our Changing World	Aimed at students interested in geography, conservation, anthropology, politics or economics, this day explores how our changing world impacts our communities now and how we might live in the future.
10-12	Believe and Achieve	Aimed at students studying law, criminology, sociology or related subjects, this day focuses on breaking the barriers around this field. Students explore a range of careers, attend a careers' fair and take part in a Q&A session with academics and current and former students.
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.

*"I really enjoyed the day and how the different activities linked to language."*

**Student**  
World Languages Day 2022

# FIND OUT MORE

## You can contact us at:

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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 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](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 August 2022. 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)

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