

# THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Working in partnership with schools



Stand for ambition  
[kent.ac.uk](https://kent.ac.uk)

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Our Schools and Colleges Recruitment Team provide a comprehensive programme of in-school or college activities aimed at introducing students to a range of academic subjects, assisting them with their UCAS applications and helping them to develop the skills needed in higher education. They are suitable for all students in years 12 and 13 or studying on Level 3 programmes. See [kent.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges](http://kent.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges) for details.

# Outreach at the University of Kent

**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. The Outreach and Widening Participation team supports learners who are under-represented in Higher Education. 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 believe in the value of higher education and the importance of a diverse, inclusive university community.

We monitor our work and its outcomes very closely to assess its impact on underrepresented learners. Kent is one of the founding members of 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.

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

**As a school working in partnership with the University you have access to a wide programme of outreach events and activities. Examples are provided here but full details are available on our website [kent.ac.uk/outreach](http://kent.ac.uk/outreach)**

To receive our regular schools' bulletin with details of all our upcoming activities, please email [outreach@kent.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@kent.ac.uk)

## 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.

## 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 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 us, so that we 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
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## Pre-16

7-11	Assembly talks*	25-minute talk to introduce students to higher education and student life.
7	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.
8	Year 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.
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.

## Post-16

Designed for parents of years 12 & 13	The Value of Higher Education*	This talk explains the benefits and advantages of going to university and includes an opportunity for parents to ask questions.
12-13	Journey to Uni	A series of three interactive talks and a campus visit, designed to help students navigate choosing a higher education course and decide on which university might be best for them. As part of our Journey to Uni programme, students will also experience an immersive and fun day on our Canterbury campus. Supported by our student ambassadors, they will explore the extra-curricular side of university life, and have an opportunity to investigate what they might like from their own university experience.
12-13	Library Research Days	Delivered in one of the University's libraries, this session is designed for students in post-16 education who are undertaking a research task. The day can include a session on research sources and referencing and provides an insight into the extensive library facilities available on a university campus.
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.
13/L3	Headstart Year 13/L3 (to HE)	Delivered over a number of event days, this transition programme introduces students to study, support and community at the University of Kent.

## Uni Connect

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	Skills For Success	A self-guided activity which focuses on helping students to develop the skills and knowledge needed to meet the challenges of sixth-form learning. Uni Connect schools only.

# More opportunities to visit our Kent and Medway campuses

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.

“ I really enjoyed the day and how the different activities linked to language. ”

Student  
World Languages Day

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

Year group	Event	Event details
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.
10	Summer Schools – Year 10 residential	An opportunity for students to explore their options and experience University life at our residential summer programme on the Canterbury campus.
12	Summer Schools – Year 12 non-residential	An opportunity for students to explore their options and experience University life at our non-residential summer programme on the Canterbury campus.
10-13	Space School	This experience of rocketry design and space mission helps students to develop their practical skills and confidence through the development of their very own mission to space.
12-13	Biosciences Work Experience Week	Hosted by University of Kent Academic Divisions. Carry out a mini research project, working alongside academics in our university laboratories.
12-13	University of Kent Sixth Form Language Conference	Organised by the Langton Language Centre in collaboration with the University of Kent, this day is aimed at year 12 modern language students.

# Additional benefits

## Working with the University of Kent

We work closely with teaching staff and students within the University's academic departments to offer a rich and varied programme of subject-focused events and activities. Recognising the importance of STEM to our local schools, we have dedicated STEM Outreach Officers who work to share our passion for learning and to inspire students to go on to higher education.

Please note 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

At Kent we are committed to supporting teachers and advisers. Our CPD opportunities provide advice and guidance on the application process and keep staff updated on changes within the higher education sector. The University hosts an annual Teacher and Adviser Conference in the summer term, developed exclusively for staff working with Key Stage 5/Level 3 students

All the activities outlined here are free for schools, based on targeting and availability. In addition, schools benefit from support and guidance provided by our pre- and post-16 Widening Participation Teams who are happy to discuss how best to meet student needs.

Students who make an application to study at Kent may be eligible for a Kent contextual offer, see [kent.ac.uk/applicants/policies/contextual-admissions-policy](http://kent.ac.uk/applicants/policies/contextual-admissions-policy)

## Financial Support

Students may also be able to apply for one of our outreach scholarships and bursaries, see [kent.ac.uk/outreach/scholarships-and-funding](http://kent.ac.uk/outreach/scholarships-and-funding)

Kent offers a generous bursary for students whose household income is £30,000 or below and who meet other criteria.

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

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



“ Talking to student ambassadors who are doing similar subjects to those I'm interested in made me more interested in applying. I realise having a degree can give me more options in life – and that's always good. ”

Student  
Year 12 Summer School student

# FIND OUT MORE.

## You can contact us at:

T: +44 (0)1227 824149

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

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



To find out more about our programme of outreach events, please contact our pre- and post-16 Outreach and Widening Participation Teams. 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: [kmpf.org](http://kmpf.org)



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University of Kent, The Registry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ  
T: +44 (0)1227 824149 E: [outreach@kent.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@kent.ac.uk) [kent.ac.uk/outreach](http://kent.ac.uk/outreach)

This brochure was produced in October 2023. 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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**Kent**