

# Manchester Higher

## Promoting HE together

Schools programme 2014-2015

Manchester Higher is a partnership programme between Manchester Metropolitan University and The University of Manchester. The programme provides high quality, impartial information, advice and guidance about higher education, with the aim of increasing awareness and raising ambitions amongst targeted learners in Greater Manchester.

The programme is delivered through a range of on-campus and in-school workshops, presentations and events, details of which can be found overleaf.

During the 2013/14 academic year, over 900 pupils aged between 12 and 15 visited both universities as part of the Year 8/9 Choices Days and Year 10 Campus Visits. In addition, staff and student ambassadors delivered outreach activities in schools to over 7,000 young learners and their parents and carers.

All of our activities are free of charge to schools and the Programme is outlined below.

Year group	Activity	Outcome
Key Stage 3	Star Student Board Game	Understanding of the vocabulary associated with higher education.
	Student Life Presentation	Awareness of the different aspects of student life; study, extra-curricular activities and accommodation.
	Year 8/9 Options Presentation in school	Increased understanding of the range of pathways available to pupils and the impact of option choices.
	Year 8/9 Choices Day	Opportunity to explore a university campus and future education and career options.
Key Stage 4	Year 10 Campus Visit	Opportunity to explore a university campus and find out more about student finance and subject choices.
	Year 10/11 Choices Presentation in school	Increased awareness of progression routes post-16 and the impact of subject and qualification choices.
	Student Life Presentation	Awareness of the different aspects of student life: study, extra-curricular activities and accommodation.
	Introduction to Revision Skills	Targeted at Year 11 pupils to support their GCSE revision.





## Year 8/9 Choices Days

This one day event is designed to give Year 8 and Year 9 learners an opportunity to reflect on their options for the future, in advance of choosing their GCSE options. Learners will examine the implication of their choices and how these influence their future. The event includes a workshop, campus tour and the opportunity to speak with current undergraduate students from the two universities. The pupils will also see a drama performance from the performing arts group 2Engage as part of the day.

Throughout the 2013/14 academic year, over 450 pupils from schools in Greater Manchester visited both campuses as part of the Year 8/9 Choices Days. Feedback from the days was extremely positive, with one pupil feeding back, 'The play and campus tour were really enjoyable.'

Dates for the 2014/15 academic year are as follows (Please note: there is a maximum of 30 pupils per school booking):

**MMU Coordinated Visits:**  
 Wednesday 12 November, 2014  
 Friday 14 November, 2014  
 Friday 21 November, 2014

**UoM Coordinated Visits:**  
 Wednesday 28 January, 2015  
 Thursday 29 January, 2015  
 Friday 30 January, 2015

To book a place, or for further information about Choices Days and Campus Visits, please visit:  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/manchester-higher](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/manchester-higher)

## Year 10 Campus Visits

These university visits provide learners with the opportunity to visit a university campus and gain an insight into student life and the range of courses available. The visit will consist of a University Uncovered workshop, focusing on the differences between school and university and student finance, followed by a campus tour. The visit will also introduce pupils to the Student's Union and showcase the impact it has on student life. Throughout the visit, pupils will work closely with current undergraduate students from both universities to obtain first-hand information about studying at a higher level.

During the 2013/14 academic year, we delivered six events, with over 400 pupils visiting both campuses from schools across Greater Manchester. The feedback received was positive, with one pupil feeding back, 'The student ambassadors made it really great – nothing was too much trouble,' with another adding, 'I enjoyed finding out about all the different universities available.'

Dates for the 2014/15 academic year are as follows:

**MMU Coordinated Visits:**  
 (Please note: there is a maximum of 30 pupils per school booking)  
 Friday 27 February, 2015  
 Friday 6 March, 2015  
 Friday 27 March, 2015

**UoM Coordinated Visits:**  
 (Please note: there is a maximum of 15 pupils per school booking)  
 Wednesday 29 April, 2015  
 Thursday 30 April, 2015  
 Friday 1 May, 2015  
 Thursday 7 May, 2015  
 Friday 8 May, 2015

## Continuing professional development for teachers and advisers

The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University are committed to providing relevant CPD sessions for teachers and advisers across Greater Manchester. These are designed for colleagues who work with pre and post-16 learners, advising them about their options for the future in relation to higher education. The topics will cover current issues in higher education and how this information can be relayed to your students.

*"I will definitely be recommending the programme to my colleagues!"*  
 Lindsay Gresswell, Teacher, Failsworth School

### Teacher CPD sessions in schools

This is a great opportunity to host a Teacher CPD session in school for teaching staff from across the borough where your school is situated.

Each session will last 1.5 hours and the topics offered are:

- Student Finance
- A Beginners Guide to UCAS
- Progression Pathways

If you would be interested in hosting a session, please contact us at [schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk) or [schoolsoutreach@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsoutreach@mmu.ac.uk)

## IAG outward events



As part of Manchester Higher, a representative from the programme can visit your school and deliver the following presentations:

### Presentations

#### Introduction to Revision Skills (NEW for 2014/15)

Our 'Introduction to Revision Skills' Presentation is targeted at Year 11 pupils to help support their GCSE revision. This 45 minute presentation is delivered by current students and features key tips and advice about revision skills including basics on time management and ways to revise. The students can also talk about their own experiences of revising for exams and can answer any questions about what works for them. The presentation can be delivered to any size group and at any time of year. For further information please email [schoolsoutreach@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsoutreach@mmu.ac.uk)

#### Student Life (suitable for Year 9 upwards)

An opportunity for learners to find out what student life is really like from two current university students. The presentation covers all aspects of student life, from accommodation to societies. Information on student finance can also be included upon request.

#### Year 8/9 Options

This presentation is delivered by a member of the Manchester Higher team with the aim of helping pupils to understand how GCSEs can impact their future in advance of choosing their GCSE options. A brief overview of university is also included alongside some interactive elements.

#### Year 10/11 Choices

The aim of this presentation is to prompt Key Stage 4 pupils to start thinking about their futures and the decisions they will soon have to make regarding their education. The presentation is delivered by a member of the Manchester Higher team and includes advice on choosing A-Level and degree subjects, as well as reiterating the importance of GCSEs.

#### General higher education presentation alongside parents evening

This presentation provides parents with an overview of higher education in general, as well as student finance, and can be tailored to suit the school. Parents will also have the opportunity to chat informally with a member of the Manchester Higher team.

## Support for IAG events

The two universities are committed to attending events in schools in order to promote higher education to learners in Greater Manchester. Examples of events include:

- Parents evenings
- Careers fairs
- Options evenings

A member of staff or student ambassador will attend the event with a stand and literature, with the aim of providing generic advice on progression routes and information on entry requirements to a wide range of courses. As two of the UK's most popular universities, we are able to provide in-depth information on specific entry requirements and courses. A leaflet for pupils and parents will be available on the stand.

Throughout the 2013/14 academic year, staff and student ambassadors from both universities, attended over 100 events at schools across the region, engaging with over 5,250 pupils and parents.

## Events supporting targeted learners

Manchester Higher is keen to support groups under-represented in higher education, particularly care experienced young people and disabled students. They are a key target group for us and schools are encouraged to include these students in cohorts taking part in all activities. However we also provide some specific targeted events for these learners, and those involved in supporting them. Details of some of our programmes are below and overleaf, please get in touch with us for more information, or to discuss other groups you would like for us to work with.

### Support for young people from a care background

**Success4life (Year 8/9):** This is a 10 week after school programme run at the University of Manchester, which brings together year 8 and 9 looked after young people, to take part in interactive sessions to develop their confidence and key skills as well as raise awareness of higher education. The programme is free, although schools are responsible for arranging transport to and from the University (pupil premium can be used to finance this).

We are also interested in discussing the possibility of running a version of the programme in alternative venues for more distant schools where transport to and from Manchester is difficult.

**Step up to Uni (Year 12):** This is a one day university visit targeted at Year 12 care leavers to increase their understanding of the specific support they can access in higher education, both from the local universities and from their Local Authority. The visit includes a workshop with care experienced university students who are able to talk about their education journey and answer any queries your students may have. There will also be information on the financial support available and how to access it. The days are small and interactive and give your students a chance to ask any questions they may have.

**University visits:** As part of Manchester Higher we offer a range of Campus Visits which we would encourage schools to include care experienced young people in the cohorts for these. However we are very happy to arrange bespoke visits for small groups of care experienced young people, and these can be done at any time of year to suit, and we will try to arrange meetings with care leavers now at university as part of the visit.

**Supporting the Supporters:** This Annual half day event is hosted by one of the local universities in the region. The event targets social workers, foster carers, designated teachers and anyone else supporting those from care in progressing onto higher education. We aim to provide general information on the financial support available when progressing to higher education and specific information on the support for care leavers. The highlight of the event is a workshop with current care leavers talking about their journey into university, what support they have found helpful and what additional support they would have liked. This provides an interactive forum for professionals to find out more about the higher education system and explore the opinions of care leavers on how best to support them on their journey.

**Foster carers presentations:** Whilst we welcome foster carers on the above event, we recognise the venue and timing is not always practical for them. We are therefore willing to provide a presentation on higher education as part of any training or information events which may be happening locally. We will usually bring along one of our care experienced university students to such presentations to give their views on higher education and answer questions, and we can vary the presentation to fit in any available time slot.

## Support for disabled learners

**Higher Education Awareness day for disabled students (pre and post 16):** We want to encourage schools to include disabled students in their cohorts for Manchester Higher events. However we are keen to provide additional targeted days for disabled students to find out more about the specific support they can access at university, and what the process is to get this support. The day will include information on the Disabled Students Allowance, information from the disability service at one of the universities, as well as the more general financial support available. Pupils will also have the chance to meet disabled university students who will talk about their experiences and provide advice for the younger learners.

These days have previously focussed on D/deaf students, but we are keen to expand this area of work and would be interested to hear about any disabled learners you feel could benefit from such an event.

For further information please email [schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk)

## Star Student Board Game



Star Student is a large board game that introduces Year 8 and 9 students to university and higher education through an exciting team activity. Human counters move around the board as each team answers a series of questions relating to university. Answers are given through mime, drawing, multiple choice questions and spelling so there's something for everyone!

This can be delivered to a class of up to 28 at a time and takes around an hour to complete. The game will be delivered in schools by our Student Ambassadors who will also talk about their university experience.

Teachers found this to be a really engaging learning experience for groups, with one teacher feeding back, 'They were learning in a fun, competitive way with a fun conclusion.'

We are happy to bring it into schools at any time of year. For further information please email [schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk)

## Individual outreach programmes

In addition to Manchester Higher, both universities will continue to offer their own individual outreach programmes. Please see below:

### The University of Manchester

- Primary Children's University Programme
- Gateways Programme (designed for able secondary school students from non-privileged backgrounds)
- Academic Enrichment Programme
- STEM support including National Science and Engineering Week and subject specific taster days
- Mentoring programme in targeted schools (including a Year 10 Summer School)
- Events and activities organised by academic departments and our cultural assets. These include the Manchester Museum, The Whitworth Art Gallery, The University of Manchester Library, Jodrell Bank Observatory and The Race Relations Resource Centre.

### Manchester Metropolitan University

- Curriculum Enrichment including 'Creative Writing', 'Making Foreign Languages an Option', and 'Business Enterprise'
- MMU Mentoring – 10 week group mentoring project for Year 10 pupils
- Summer School
- Campus Visits
- HE Workshops on various university topics delivered in schools at times to suit
- School Outreach activities delivered by individual faculties including National Science week and other STEM events
- National Science and Engineering Week.

## Targeting

For all Manchester Higher events taking place at The University of Manchester or Manchester Metropolitan University, teachers should target pupils who meet at least one of the following selection criteria and who have the potential to achieve at least five A\* to C grades at GCSE (or equivalent):

- Pupils from families where parents/carers have no experience of higher education
- Pupils from a care background
- Pupils with a disability
- Pupils on free school meals

Before the event, for monitoring and evaluation purposes, we will ask the organising teacher to provide the following data for their group:

- Number of learners on free school meals
- Number of learners in care/from a care background
- Number of learners with a disability



### The University of Manchester

email: [schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsandcolleges@manchester.ac.uk)

Tel: 0161 275 8172

### Manchester Metropolitan University

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