**Context:**

The Office for Students has developed a new priority for all higher education institutions, to ***‘Develop, enhance and expand their partnership with schools and other local national organisations, to help raise the pre-16 attainment of young people from underrepresented groups across England’*.** UoM submitted a variation to the existing APP for 2020/21 to 2024/25, outlining our commitment to meeting this new target.

As the Gateways programme demonstrated effective, existing partnership relationships with many high priority Greater Manchester secondary schools, we have chosen to pilot innovative approaches to increasing pre-16 attainment, through the revamp of the Gateways programme, and the introduction of a new raising attainment programme, where a select number of Gateways schools will be invited to join the programme. These changes will be introduced from academic year 2023/24, through a phased plan of delivery.

**Key Changes:**

* The capacity of schools on the Gateways programme will be reduced from 48 (only currently 35 active schools) to 25, and will only be the highest priority schools
* Gateways will become a Year 7-9 programme and no longer for Year 10/11 students
* A new Year 10/11 programme has been created, called ‘Manchester Young Academics’, where a select number of Gateways schools will be invited to join this programme

**Gateways Programme**

The new Gateways programme will deliver higher education information, advice and guidance to students in Year 7 to 9, and aims to provide students with the knowledge, understanding, and tools to make informed decisions about their own future into higher education. We will also introduce metacognition activities to support them in becoming reflective, confident learners.

**Targeting:** We will continue the same targeting for Gateways schools (must be within the range of 1A-1C/2B) and we will review schools on the programme every 2 years. The capacity of schools has been reduced to 25. Individual students must continue to meet the WP criteria previously set for this programme.

**Structure**: 12 students from each school will join the programme in Year 7 and will come on a yearly campus visit until Year 9; when they will graduate from the programme. Our morning activities will focus on HE IAG, and the afternoon session will focus on metacognitive learning.

**Manchester Young Academics**

This new programme aims to provide Year 10 and 11 pupils from the most socially deprived areas within the lowest attaining schools, with the skills, resources, and experiences they need to become independent learners and become successful university applicants. We aim to equip them with metacognitive skills, cultivate self-efficacy and increase their cultural capital and oracy skills, whilst creating a sense of belonging to a community that extends beyond their immediate surroundings.

**Targeting:** The targeting criteria has been set to help increase recruitment from our pre-16 outreach activities into our UoM access programmes. We will target high priority schools with

low attainment rates and target individual students who meet the criteria for our access schemes. There will be 12 learners from up to 5 schools on the programme at full capacity.

**Structure:** Year 10 learners will take part in 9 weekly in-school enrichment sessions, focused on virtue education and character building, along with a field trip to a Manchester cultural institution. They will then visit the University on a campus visit at the end of the academic year.

The same students will then return in year 11 for another campus visit, where they will take part in a research project (similar to the UoM sustainability challenge). They will also be invited to an optional revision session before their exam period starts.

**Reasoning behind the programmes**

Since returning to an on-campus delivery model, the Gateways programme has faced multiple challenges in delivering the programme to the full capacity of students (over 2,000 students per year); including availability of rooms on campus and availability of student ambassadors. Alongside this, research has shown that in order to deliver successful attainment raising for pre-16 students, we must work with students more intensively, more often and over a sustained period of time. Due to the size of the Gateways programme, and our limited resources, we would be unable to deliver intensive attainment raising activities to this amount of students. , We have therefore reduced the size of the Gateways programme, and then kept the number of learners on the Manchester Young Academics Programme small; to ensure we can deliver high quality programmes that have high impact.

Furthermore, we have chosen to base our Manchester Young Academics enrichment sessions on ‘character and virtue education’, as it contributes to the specific requirements in the Ofsted Inspection Framework, and follows research shown by TASO; which states that ‘self-efficacy and confidence building have the strongest correlation with attainment in HE’.

The inclusion of a visit to a cultural institution will help students with cultural capital and literacy and help to bridge the gap between these learners and their more advantaged peers