

Introducing the newest members of the WPO Team



Sinead Holmes
Faculty of Arts & Human Sciences

I have very recently taken over from Lucy McDonagh as the Widening Participation Support Officer for the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences.

I currently live in Emsworth (a tiny village near

Portsmouth) and this is my second role in HE. Before Surrey I worked at the University of Southampton, co-ordinating one of their key widening participation schemes; Access to Southampton.

I enjoyed my own time in education and really valued the opportunities it gave me; hence after studying for my degree, I trained as a teacher and taught in a large FE college in Hampshire for five years. My new role at Surrey is fun and exciting, it gives me the opportunity to plan interesting events and activities and continue to work with young people.

I love to travel and have been to Belfast, Paris, Ostuni (Italy) and Berlin this year alone, I like going to the cinema simply because of the smell of the popcorn and finding new restaurants to try out.

To contact Sinead Holmes about any events upcoming in the faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, please email s.holmes@surrey.ac.uk or call on 01483 68 3547.



Jonathan Plummer
Faculty of Business, Economics & Law

I am very excited about my new role at the University of Surrey; it is a far cry from my previous position at an inner-city London sixth form. It's lovely to be back in the south as well (I am originally from just outside Brighton), you

forget what fresh air is like after years in the "Big Smoke".

I'm new to the HE sector and WPO, but very familiar with raising young people's aspirations, having previously worked in FE and voluntary sector children's charities.

I'm a keen writer, photographer, cinephile, conflicted petrol-head and environmentalist. I trained as an actor at Drama Centre in London and was a professional actor for 10 years. I'll be covering Sally Cook within the Faculty of Business, Economics & Law during her maternity leave.

To contact Jonathan Plummer about any events upcoming in the faculty of Business, Economics and Law, please email j.plummer@surrey.ac.uk or call on 01483 68 2010.

University Compact Schemes

The In2Surrey Scheme

Compact schemes are designed to both increase and widen access to Higher Education. Many universities offer such schemes, here at the University of Surrey the programme is known as In2Surrey.

The In2Surrey Scheme offers students who meet certain eligibility criteria the opportunity to receive a modified offer for the programme for which they have applied. While the In2Surrey Scheme does not guarantee a place at the University of Surrey, it gives fair consideration to eligible students who have the potential to succeed at University but have special circumstances that mean they may find it difficult to achieve the standard offer for the programme.

To apply for the Scheme, students must currently be studying either A-levels or a BTEC (QCF Level 3) Extended Diploma course at a state maintained school or college.

Students should have already applied or be in the process of applying to study an undergraduate programme at the University of Surrey.

To be eligible for the Scheme, students must be able to demonstrate that they satisfy at least two of the following criteria:

- Be from families where the main income earners are in non-professional occupations
- Be from families where there is no parental experience of Higher Education
- Be in receipt of free school meals and/or 16-19 Bursary
- Be a Looked After Child in the care of the Local Authority or a Local Authority Care Leaver
- Be a Young Carer
- Be part of the Traveller Community
- Have a declared Disability
- Can show significant disruption to their education

What does In2Surrey offer?

Successful applicants will benefit from:

- A modified offer, typically a reduction of up to one A-level grade or BTEC (QCF Level 3) Extended Diploma grade, based on the successful completion of the In2Surrey Learning Module.
- If a Scheme member finally joins the University, they may be entitled to a financial award subject to specific criteria.



Application Deadline

All students must complete the In2Surrey application form by 15 January 2015. The application form can be downloaded from: surrey.ac.uk/in2surrey

For further information, please contact: wp@surrey.ac.uk

Mature Learners Event

The University of Surrey's Department of Widening Participation and Outreach hosted a dedicated Mature Learners Event on 22 October 2014, for 30 students currently studying an Access to Higher Education course.

The event was designed to increase the confidence levels of students aged 21 or over, with regards to applying and progressing to Higher Education.

Undoubtedly the most important part of the day was provided by current mature students at the University of Surrey, who spoke about their own experiences of being a mature learner at university. The event also included a variety of other sessions, such as personal statement writing, student finance and study skills.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and particular praise was given to the Student Ambassadors who supported the event. One attendee commented 'all the Ambassadors were fantastic, as were the mature student talks. I feel I have gained a lot more understanding'.

For further details about how the Department of Widening Participation and Outreach can support mature learners considering applying to Higher Education, please visit: surrey.ac.uk/maturelearners



Year 12/13 Higher Education Progression Day

On 5 November 2014, the Department of Widening Participation and Outreach welcomed Year 12 and 13 students from Kings College to its Higher Education Information, Advice and Guidance Day. Students participated in a series of informative sessions to assist them, as they contemplated progressing to Higher Education. During the day, students learnt how to effectively research university choices and the range of degree programmes available. Students were then guided through the UCAS application process, including how to write an effective Personal Statement. After enjoying a tour of the Campus, students were provided with information about Student Finance. The day concluded with a 'hot-seating' question and answer session with the Student Ambassadors supporting the event.

One student commented, "there was useful information that really helped me understand about university a lot more". Other comments included, "I found the event has given me some ideas to help next year and afterwards, as I am not fully sure what I would like to do after college at the moment".

The Department of Widening Participation and Outreach will be holding a further Year 12 Higher Education Information, Advice and Guidance Day on 3 December 2014.

Sarah Linington
Widening Participation Co-Ordinator

The Forum for Access to Continuing Education (FACE) held their 21st Annual Conference on 2 - 4 July 2014 at Salford University. The conference title was 'Collaborate to Widen Participation: To, Through and Beyond Higher Education'.

An important role for FACE is facilitating the exchange of information and practices in Lifelong Learning and Continuing Education. FACE aims to 'support and encourage a socially inclusive framework for lifelong learning, challenging exclusion and fostering full participation'. They act primarily as a pressure group; also as a service provider, staff development forum, national policy shaper, information service and event organiser.

Three members of University staff presented on different conference themes: Renata Eyres, Head of Widening Participation and Outreach at the University of Surrey, presented on 'Effective School and Higher Education Institution Partnership Working' starting the presentation by talking about the importance of effective partnerships providing a number of examples. Working with the Surrey Schools Consortium, Renata highlighted the importance of having buy-in from schools and their involvement in the design and development of activities. At the end of the presentation there was discussion about the process of establishing a partnership with schools and how this can be done effectively.

Tim Parry, Head of Staff Development at the University, gave a presentation on 'Maximising Outreach & Impact Through Student Ambassadors'. Tim has worked closely with the WP&O Department providing bespoke training for the team to enable them to deliver a new development programme for Student Ambassadors to develop their existing skills and gain valuable new ones to prepare them for their new role as Student Ambassadors. Ambassadors play a key role in WP&O activities and we are evaluating the impact of the initial training in preparing them to fulfil their role effectively.

Katherine Sela, Research, Evaluation and Data Support Officer at the University, presented on 'Evidencing the Value of WP activities'. Katherine described the WP&O strategy, giving information on the activity planning process using an outcome based approach and logic modelling to create detailed plans. The presentation highlighted the importance of combining the planning process with evaluation of activities to provide a summative and formative evaluation of outreach activities.



Katherine Sela, Renata Eyres and Tim Parry at the FACE Conference

All three papers demonstrated the work that the WP&O Department is doing to raise the aspirations and attainment of under-represented students, in partnership with the Surrey Schools Consortium, and with the support of WP Student Ambassadors.

The next FACE conference will take place on 1-3 July 2015 at the University of South Wales, entitled 'Closing the Gap: Bridges for Access and Lifelong Learning.'

<http://face2015.org/>

Year 6 Transition Summer Schools

A number of secondary schools in Surrey have utilised funding from the DfE over the last 3 years to offer Transition Summer Schools to some of the prospective new Year 7 intake, particularly aimed at Pupil Premium and Year 6 students. This summer, the Department of Widening Participation supported 3 schools – Esher High School, Reigate School and the Beacon School – with their Summer Schools in a variety of ways, both on and off campus.



Almost immediately after schools closed for the summer, The Beacon School ran their week-long programme (28 July – 1 August) for 34 Pupil Premium Students plus students from Year 5 in their feeder primary schools. Literacy was the main focus of the week and we had 6 of our Student Ambassadors involved over 3 days with different activities, including using Lego Storywriter.

Starting on the same day, but running for 2 weeks (28 July – 8 August), Esher High School targeted 30 students who had an extremely varied programme focusing on Literacy, Numeracy and team-building. The students came on to campus for a day at the University which included a Science Fair, Campus Tour and then an afternoon of sports at the Surrey Sports Park.

Towards the end of August, Reigate School ran their second Summer School (18 -22 August) for 43 students, which was largely Literacy and Numeracy focused. The students came on to campus for a Numbers Campus Tour, Headline Writing Activity followed by cardio tennis, fencing and climbing at the Surrey Sports Park, all working with Student Ambassadors.

Transition Summer Schools have been shown to be a positive influence on confidence, readiness and attainment in secondary school for those who attend and this fits with the Widening Participation's Department's work with Surrey Consortium Schools to raise aspiration and attainment.

One of our Student Ambassadors who took part commented ; " The children managed to tap into their creative side. It was shown as one of the children rarely attends school or participates and even he was getting involved".

Year 6 'Mad About...' Fair!

On Friday 17 October 2014 the Department of Widening Participation and Outreach hosted an inaugural 'Mad About...' primary fair for over 450 Year 6 students from nine local primary schools. With the aim of raising the students' aspirations and helping in their transition to secondary school, it was also a great introduction to the idea of University for many of the students.

Some Year 6 students match the various flags with their countries in the Mad about Languages zone!



The fair comprised of six zones: Mad About Engineering, Mad About Food, Mad About Languages, Mad About Sport, Mad About Health and Mad About Uni. The students had 20 minutes to explore the activities in each zone, and took part in activities such as learning CPR, decorating gingerbread men, learning to write in Chinese, singing, and building bridges with BAM Construction.

The students had a fantastic time with 90% saying they had learnt about a lot of different subjects. We look forward to developing the fair next year.

Sian Henderson
Widening Participation Support Officer FEPS

Teacher Professional Development (TPD) Events

Year 12/13 IAG TPD Event



Independent Careers Consultant Alan Bullock

On Tuesday 30 September 2014, the Department of Widening Participation and Outreach held the first of a series of Information Advice & Guidance (IAG) Teacher Professional Development Events.

Aimed at teachers of Year 12 and 13 and non-teaching staff with IAG responsibilities, the event looked at the challenges facing Level 3 students in a changing environment and included an opportunity for discussion around the realities of post-education career pathways as well as what universities are looking for in applications.

Delivered by Independent Careers Consultant Alan Bullock, the event provided a valuable networking opportunity for staff from schools including Rydens Enterprise School, All Hallows Catholic School, Blenheim High School, Collingwood College, George Abbot School and St Peter's Catholic School.

To see more about Alan Bullock's work please visit alanbullockcareers.com.

Sally Cook
Widening Participation Support Officer FBEL

Computing TPD Event

On Tuesday 23 September 2014 we welcomed 20 teachers from across Surrey to an evening Professional Development event in Computing.

Since the introduction of the new Computing curriculum into schools, the Department of Widening Participation and Outreach have been supporting schools in the Surrey Schools Consortium with the transition from ICT.

On the evening Beverly Clarke, Head of Computing at Sunbury Manor School and Computing at Schools Master Teacher, provided teachers with different ideas and exciting ways to teach difficult subjects, such as Algorithms, to students of all ages.

The evening was interactive and saw the teachers using card tricks and even the Macarena dance as teaching aids. The teachers gave extremely positive feedback, and we look forward to welcoming them and their colleagues back to future events.



Sian Henderson
Widening Participation Support Officer FEPS

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Raising aspirations and attainment through partnership.



Spotlight on our Student Ambassadors!

Kirsten Parry
(BSc Music)



Being a Student Ambassador is so different from other roles and it involves going out and doing something with the 'community' of Guildford/Surrey I can't wait to be involved in more school work! Already I have become more confident, especially from the Year 9 Surrey Skills Fair as I had to be really mature. I think we are benefiting the next generation absolutely because we encourage so many young people to think about university and their futures, and help them aspire to do something more than just leave school and get a job.

My Ambassador role has made me think twice about my own career options.

Year 10 Law Taster Days

The University of Surrey welcomed a total of 156 Year 10 students from Surrey maintained schools including Jubilee High, Ash Manor, Howard of Effingham, Weydon, Royal Alexandra & Albert, Salesian, Oxted and Farnham Heath End to a series of Law Taster Days which ran on Wednesday 8 and Wednesday 15 October 2014.

The event was designed for students to experience 'a day in the life of a law student' and provided them with the opportunity to experience an introductory law lecture, tutorial work guided by our Law Student Ambassadors. The topic of focus was Contract Law, delivered by Elaine Carter from the Law School. Students were split into mixed school groups for the tutorial sessions allowing them to work with students from other local schools and develop their group work and presentation skills.



Elaine Carter
Law Tutor,
University of
Surrey

The days are challenging both academically and socially but give students an insight into what studying Law really is like at University.

One student commented, "*I am interested in law, but had no real experience/knowledge of it so this really helped me to gain a better idea of what to expect*".

The next Year 10 Law Taster Day is due to run on Wednesday 25 March 2015.

Sally Cook
Widening Participation Support Officer FBEL

Year 9 Higher Education Progression Day

On Wednesday 15 October 2014, 79 Year 9 students from four Surrey Consortium Schools (Woking High, Reigate School, The Beacon and Blenheim High School) attended an interactive workshop on campus looking at careers choices and what options are available for them going forwards.

Students had the chance to choose career paths for fictional characters with the opportunity to use college and university prospectuses to research qualifications and requirements over a working lunch. They then looked at how hobbies could influence their options and possibly provide ideas for the future. This was followed by an inspirational talk by Janet Preston on her very varied working life from physics to management consultancy to starting her own businesses!

One student commented, "Today has been helpful to me, because it has shown how you can change your mind in your career. I have enjoyed being able to look through the books we were given because it is an opportunity I wouldn't have gotten otherwise".

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Forthcoming Events

Year 7 HE Progression Days

Wednesday 19 November 2014 (FULL)

Wednesday 3 December 2014 (FULL)

Wednesday 14 January 2015 (FULL)

Wednesday 11 March 2015

Year 12 HE Progression Day

Wednesday 3 December 2014 (FULL)

Year 7 Christmas Events - 'Help Surrey Save Christmas!'

Tuesday 9 December 2014

Thursday 11 December 2014

Year 8 HE Progression Day

Wednesday 21 January 2015

Year 10 HE Progression Day

Wednesday 28 January 2015

Year 9 SURREY SKILLS FAIR

Thursday 5 February 2015

Friday 6 February 2015

Year 11 Resilient Revision Days

Tuesday 10 February 2015

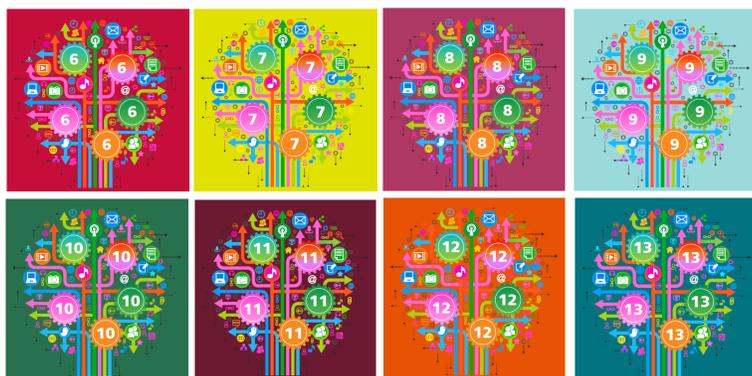
Wednesday 11 February 2015

Year 10 HE Progression Day

Wednesday 25 February 2015

To see a full programme of events for 2014-15 and to book places, please visit:

surrey.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/consortium/index.htm



Want to get involved?

If you would like to be involved in the delivery and support of any of the events listed, please contact a member of the team to find out how you could contribute.

Contact Us

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