In this issue:

Read about the array of Outreach events that have been happening at Surrey over the past few months, from workshops on Microorganisms to Information, Advise and Guidance days. Also, find out all you need to know about our upcoming events, including how to apply for this year’s Young Persons’ University Summer Schools!

Meet the newest members of the WP&O team!

Since our last newsletter, the WP&O team has expanded! Keep a lookout for these fresh new faces at our future events. WP&O has also joined forces with the Higher Education Outreach Network (HEON). For more information, see below.

As Coordinator for the Higher Education Outreach Network (HEON), I work alongside the WP&O team. HEON is a government-funded partnership of four Higher Education Providers in Surrey. Our aim is to work collaboratively to support schools with impartial information about Higher Education, and raise the aspirations of young people in Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire. Although HEON is hosted within the WP&O team at the University of Surrey, we have 3 other equal partners: Royal Holloway University of London, University for the Creative Arts, and Farnborough College of Technology.

We deliver free face-to-face support, such as workshops about H.E. in-school, or campus visits, but also list other university events and resources about university on our website - www.heon.org.uk. We are also developing projects including in-school theatre workshops on future options for Year 8s, and online e-mentoring to link current university students with a school pupil for information and support. I would love to hear from you about how HEON can support you, your colleagues, and your pupils. Feel free to get in touch!
Y6 Primary Fair

A total of 369 Year 6 students from 8 schools around Surrey attended the University of Surrey’s Primary Fair. Throughout the day, students rotated around five different interactive activities:

- An Engineering zone where students took part in a bridge building activity!
- A Food zone where students heard about courses in Hospitality and Tourism and Food Science and decorate their own biscuit base!
- A sports zone where students took part in a circuit training!
- A Languages zone where students learnt basics in Spanish!
- A Health zone where students learnt about the human Skelton and practiced some first aid techniques!

Photographs of students taking part in the Engineering zone, sports zone and food zone can be seen on the right.

Y7 IET Faraday Challenge

The WP&O team collaborated with the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) to deliver a Faraday Challenge Day event for 36 students from 6 different schools. The Faraday Challenge is an exciting national competition that challenges students to use BBC Micro:Bits to solve real-world Engineering problems.

A big congratulations to Woolmer Hill whose team managed to win the challenge day and take home a trophy for their school!
This year the WPO team held a brand new Biomedical Sciences workshop for year 7 students which saw pupils engaging with the amazing and abundant world of microorganisms! A total of 134 students, from 8 schools attended the events over 5 days in January and February 2016.

Activities included designing microorganism monsters based upon profiles of microorganisms, a scavenger hunt around campus to find useful microorganisms in context and a chance to get up close to the wonderful world of protozoa whilst students developed scientific skills using microscopes. During the day students (and teachers!) were also tasked with seeing how good they really were at washing their hands!

The Christmas event was attended by 158 Year 7 students from 8 Surrey schools. The event gave the students the opportunity to explore different career pathways such as Engineering, Biosciences, Nutrition, Media and Maths. The students had the opportunity to participate in team-building activities, explore independent learning skill and work together with Student Ambassadors.

'I found it very helpful because I got to learn other topics and see what kind of jobs I could do in the future’
(Student, Year 7)

'This trip was educational, fun and I would come here again and I would like to come to this university in the future.’
(Student, Year 7)

‘Students thoroughly enjoyed every session and have taken away great skills learnt within sessions’
(Progress Lead, Year 7)
Y8 Exploring Higher Education Week

Year 8 Week was attended by 92 Year 8 students, 8 Surrey schools, 113 parents/carers and 27 Student Ambassadors. During the week students took part in a wide range of activities including Engineering, Sports at Surrey Sports Park, Drama, Chemistry and Law. Students also took part in a team building and motivation workshop and worked together with Student Ambassadors throughout the week.

Feedback from the week included…

- ‘It was a great experience and I will be going to university in the future’ (Student, Year 8)
- ‘I now know the difference between school and university and now I’m more confident to work with others’ (Student, Year 8)
- ‘I have enjoyed it and my confidence has grown loads’ (Student, Year 8)
- ‘Thank you for giving our son a fantastic opportunity this week. It has inspired him and us as a family to support him and his higher education choices’ (Parent, Year 8 student)
- ‘The students have loved it, they could not stop talking about it and how much they have gained from it’ (Teacher, Year 8 students)

On the final day 113 parents and carers came onto campus for a Graduation Ceremony to celebrate students’ hard work and achievements throughout the week. Certificates were presented to students by the PVC, Andrea Dlaska, and Renata Eyres, Head of Widening Participation and Outreach.
Year 8 Light Waves

Year 8 students had fun at WP&O’s Physics workshop, learning about how light waves travel before applying this knowledge to making pinhole cameras and using them to take photographs around the university campus. The amateur photographers took some beautiful pictures of our lake, buildings and artwork. 89% of students agreed or strongly agreed that the activities strengthened their knowledge of light, and several students and teachers provided comments, including:

‘I loved it. it was really fun, thank you for inviting me!’ (Year 8 student)

‘I really enjoyed the day and will look into attending this University later on’ (Year 8 student)

‘As always, the WP team and ambassadors have provided a fun day which has engaged the students and hopefully made the students see Physics in a different light. Thank you.’ (Community Cohesion Officer, BDB)

Y9 Coding Hub

The University of Surrey have been working closely with Woking High and Gordon’s schools to deliver an after school coding club for year 9 students. At the club, which ran from October to December, students developed their Python coding skills by completing tasks on lists, arrays, loops and more.

The Coding Hub will be up and running again in April and will give the students an opportunity to complete a long-term project, using the knowledge they have developed so far. Year 9 students who attended the club made the following comments:

‘I thought that coding hub was very enjoyable and will be very helpful when doing GCSE’s in IT and computing’

‘I thought that this programme was an excellent opportunity for students to learn coding and basic computing languages’
The annual Surrey Skills Fair took place on 3rd & 4th December 2015 at the Surrey Sports Park. The event attracted over two thousand-two hundred students from thirty-seven Surrey Consortium schools.

Across the two days students had the opportunity to discover new career pathways, try out cutting edge technology and find out what skills employers really value from the workforce of tomorrow. Students sampled interactive stands from dozens of businesses, universities and colleges including McLaren, Cisco Systems, Heathrow Airport, GlaxoSmithKline, IBM, BAE Systems, Royal Holloway University and Greenwich University to name but a few.

We are delighted with the continued success of this event and the students seem to love it too.

90% of students (who had not made their choices) said that the event would help them to pick their GCSEs
92% of students said that the Surrey Skills Fair helped them to understand more about the variety of courses offered at university

“I now know more about universities and what I need to take for my GCSE’s. I liked that there were lots of different stalls for us to look around. Also everyone was really friendly. As well as that I now have a better idea of what I want to do when I’m older and where I should go to do it. Furthermore I know that I have to take Science & Maths and get an A or B to do what I want to do” (Year 9 student who attended the Skills Fair)
Year 10 students from 6 different schools were welcomed onto campus to participate in our exciting new event, based on the Engineering behind the Paralympics. Students spent the morning in one of our research analysis labs, learning about how medical Engineers design, test and fit prosthetic limbs. In the afternoon, students were split into teams to research and design prostheses that could be used by Paralympic athletes. The teams produced some truly impressive designs that were not only innovative and creative, but functional and practical too! The event also developed the students’ independent learning, research, group work and presentation skills.

‘I thought that it was a very interesting day and recommend it to other schools.’ (Year 10 student)

‘Learning about Engineering and all the different types was really interesting’ (Year 10 student)

‘Really enjoyable day, I hope I get to come to university!’ (Year 10 student)
Y10 Talk Parliament

Talk Parliament was run as part of activities taking place around the UK for Parliament Week, organised by the Political Studies Association. Twenty-eight Year 10 students took part in a two hour workshop led by Dr Louise Thompson, Lecturer in British Politics at the University of Surrey, to develop their knowledge of the structure and function of Parliament. The afternoon session comprised a short talk and a question and answer session with Anne Milton, MP for Guildford, who was grilled on issues ranging from education and health to immigration and the EU.

Y10 TV Studios Taster Day

On Wednesday 18 November the University’s Widening Participation and Outreach Department welcomed fifteen Year 10 students from Woking High School to try their hands at reporting the lunchtime news. Six students worked with Sara David, Managing Editor of BBC Sussex and BBC Surrey, to research the day’s top stories and script a fifteen minute broadcast. The remaining students were given an intensive course in camera operation, sound, graphics and vision mixing by the University’s TV Studio engineers Alan Haigh and Brian Johnson, and assisted by Ollie Bowring and Matt Cooke, who are both studying for a degree in Music and Sound Recording. At the end of the day the students came together to present and record the programme with remarkable independence and precision.

For the participating students, the day provided an insight into the pressures and processes of television production, as well as the importance of working as a team. “I learned a lot over the course about how the industry works and it has really helped my confidence in working with others,” commented one student, while another wrote that the day “has definitely helped me make my decisions for the future.” A visiting teacher summed up the experience as “An absolutely fantastic day - what a wonderful experience for our students. They have all grown in confidence and loved the whole day.”

The TV Studio team will continue to collaborate with the Department of Widening Participation and Outreach in 2016 to give more local students the opportunity to experience behind the scenes of television production.
Y10 Law Taster Day

Sixty-two Year 10 students from six Surrey Consortium schools attended the Law Taster Day that aimed to provide an introduction to the study of law at university. A lecture on contract law from Elaine Carter, Teaching Fellow in Law at the University of Surrey, was followed by a tutorial on negotiation led by law undergraduate ambassadors. The students were tutored in the Leon-ard vs. PepsiCo brief from 2000, and in teams attempted to successfully negotiate a settlement for their client.

“I enjoyed the activity and the fact that we were able to study and experience a real case,” said one student.

As well as increasing their understanding of law, students developed their abilities to work as a team.

One student said that “I loved how we worked with other schools because this really improved my confidence. I loved the experience and it has really taught me what law is all about.”

Another commented that “I enjoyed the day as a whole and would like to do law in the future.”

Y11 Saturday Club

The University of Surrey were proud to support Kingston University's Saturday Club - a long term programme that gives budding young scientists, aged between 15-16, the opportunity to visit several local universities and engage in a range of interesting and challenging activities relating to STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).

At Surrey, the students completed a Physics activity which challenged them to work out what lies at the centre of our Milky Way. Students were also given a tour of our newly built telescope and listened to a fascinating talk on the detailed geographical photographs of Pluto, recently brought back to Earth by NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft after a decade long expedition into outer space.
In collaboration with Routes into Languages the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences ran a successful after-school event to give eighty-six Year 12 students a taste of studying languages at university. The students attended a taster lecture in French, Spanish or German, followed by a session in Russian, Greek, Portuguese or Chinese. The event concluded with a session on translation led by Dr Dimitris Asimakoulas, Lecturer in Translation Studies.

The Department of Widening Participation and Outreach will build on its successful collaboration with Routes into Languages to offer Year 8 and 9 students an insight into languages in the workplace. Languages: The World of Work, running on 6 June 2016, will include an interactive quiz, a language taster session, and talks from professionals who use languages on a daily basis (including in sports, business and politics).

The University of Surrey held the first Poetry Workshop on 11 February 2016 for Year 12 and 13 students to give students a taste of studying English at university as well as developing their analytical abilities. A taster workshop was led by the University’s poet in residence, Dr Prudence Chamberlain and students were then invited to attend a lecture delivered by Gwyneth Lewis, former National Poet of Wales, on using police detection methods as a way of reading poems. The session offered students studying literature or creative writing an opportunity to help develop their core knowledge, understanding and a method of analysis of modern poetry. Students found the session to be ‘very inspiring,’ and ‘a breath of fresh air.’ One student commented that the session had ‘actively encouraged us [to pursue] English as a course.’
Teacher Development Day—Computing

The University of Surrey invited Computer Science teachers from state schools in Surrey to participate in a two day professional development event. The event gave teachers the opportunity to develop their knowledge of several computing languages used on current GCSE specifications including Python, Java, Java Script and C++. Feedback from the event was extremely positive:

100% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that the academic level of the event was appropriate.

100% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that the event was stimulating and informative.

Ambassador Training

On Saturday 14th November, Widening Participation and Outreach held their annual training day for new Student Ambassadors.

A total of 67 students were successful in being recruited for the role. The event was supported by seven of our experienced WP student ambassadors who completed the ambassador training in the past.

Feedback from Student Ambassadors who attended the training event was very positive, with students saying:

- ‘informative and helpful – made me feel more confident about being an ambassador’
- ‘helpful to know about the benefits we’ll have to students and the benefits to me as an individual’
- ‘an inspirational and informative day’

Student Ambassadors took part in a number of interactive sessions to help them prepare for the role which included sessions on Group Management, Being a Reflective Practitioner and Communication Skills. The day also included sessions on Child Protection and legal issues. These are some of the comments students gave about the sessions:

- ‘given me new ideas and strategies beyond the basic techniques to deal with challenging students’
- ‘helpful to learn about context specific communication techniques’
- ‘gained greater insight about the need for reflection... this will help in many areas of my life’

100% of students agreed or strongly agreed that after the training day they felt more prepared for their role as a WP student ambassador

98% of students agreed or strongly agreed that after the training they felt more confident in their ability to contribute to the delivery of WP&O events.
After learning that my role as a student ambassador would allow me to work with the Widening Participation team, attempting to raise and enhance the aspirations of young people going onto higher education, I knew that it was the job for me.

Following on from my training and development, I have worked multiple events including the Year 9 Skills Fair, Year 7 Christmas Extravaganza and more recently the Year 8 Week, all held here on the University Campus. Having worked with students aged between 11 and 18 I have found a love for working with young people that I had never realised, so much so that it doesn’t feel like a job to me, as it is so enjoyable knowing that what you do can have an impact on the futures of the young people.

By bringing the young students to the campus and giving them a feel for University life, we are able to make them realise that university really is accessible to them, and not some distant, unreachable goal that only the better-off families of the UK are able to achieve. Seeing the students realise first-hand that this isn’t the case, is so personally rewarding.

Lastly, I have also learned the importance of reflective practice, and how it can help me better myself in the work that I do, and activities that I take part in.
The University of Surrey is offering an exciting and wide-ranging programme of residential summer schools for Year 12 students interested in finding out more about university study. The Young Persons’ Universities (YPU's) give students a flavour of living and studying at university.

During a week-long residential programme, students will participate in taster lectures, tutorials and practical sessions run by our leading academics. In addition to this, they’ll have the opportunity to talk with current undergraduates and recent graduates, find out more about applying to university, and learn more about the skills they need to excel in their chosen subject.

The week will also give students the chance to experience our cutting-edge facilities, take part in an array of social activities and meet a wide range of students while living in the heart of campus at the University of Surrey.

The Young Persons’ University programme is completely **FREE**. All costs including food, accommodation and transport will be covered by the university.

For further information and to apply, please visit: www.surrey.ac.uk/ypu

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**Inspiring the next generation.**

**Raising aspirations and attainment through partnership.**
Young Persons’ University: Summer Schools

Who is Eligible?
The Young Persons’ University Summer Schools are open to all students who meet our eligibility criteria, which is outlined below:

- Students from families where the main wage earners are in non-professional occupations
- Students who are from families where there is no parental experience of Higher Education
- Students from low participation neighbourhoods to Higher Education
- Students who are a Looked After Child in the care of the Local Authority or a Local Authority Care Leaver
- Students with a disability
- Students who are young carers

“It has been a perfect balance of education, skills and fun.”
Student on the Law Young Persons’ University Summer School, 2015

“Loved it, I met the best people. Ate way too much food, laughed more than ever and smiled so much it hurt.”
Student on the Languages Young Persons’ University Summer School, 2015

“I feel much more comfortable about the application into university.”
Student on the Physical Sciences Young Persons’ University Summer School, 2015
Lauren Page is an Electronic Engineering student at the University of Surrey and former Young Persons’ University attendee. Lauren agreed to write a case study about her experiences of the Young Persons’ University to encourage more young people to sign up and give it a go!

Young Persons’ University Case Study:

‘University used to be an uncertainty for me- I knew the career I wanted to pursue was engineering but with such scope for a practical route into the industry I wasn't sure whether university was right for me. I was coming from an unusual background, having taken time out of my studies for problems with anxiety and having no family experience of a university education through my parents, I wanted to learn what uni was really about. The YPU was the path I chose to take to enable myself to make the best decision for my future.

The Young Persons University (YPU) showed me the everyday sides of university living like living on campus in accommodation, having a real sense of independence and meeting future potential course mates. It also allowed me to participate in workshops for different engineering streams, and is what set me on the path toward the one I enjoyed the most: Electronic Engineering. Surrey university seemed like a home from home, the campus university was approachable and felt like a community. The enthusiasm of the departmental staff to educate and inspire, and the facilities provided made me think that Surrey university was the right place for me to study.

Following guidance from staff in the widening participation team, I found the In2Surrey scheme and decided to apply. The In2Surrey scheme meant I felt like such an aspirational university choice was possible for me , and that because of my circumstances I would be able to have my entry grade reduced. This has made university accessible to me despite my initial thoughts that it might not be the right pathway for me. It was so good to know that Surrey wanted those students who had their obstacles to overcome and that there was provision to help us achieve our best by attending university.

Having benefitted so much from the work of the student ambassador team at the university, I knew I wanted to make sure the opportunities I'd had would be communicated and given to future prospective students. By applying to be a part of the widening participation stream, I wanted to have real interaction with people from my background, as well as with the variety of other groups that WP helps to enable university education for. Having been successful in my application I hope to continue the good work of ambassadors before me, and to show as many people as possible that university can be a reality for their future.’
Upcoming Events

**Y7 - Y11 IAG Days**
- Y7, Tuesday 26th April 2016
- Y7, Wednesday 4th May 2016
- Y7, Wednesday 8th June 2016
- Y8, Thursday 5th May 2016
- Y8, Thursday 8th June 2016
- Y10, Wednesday 27th April 2016

**Year 8 Exploring Higher Education Week**
Monday 11th April - Friday 15th April 2016

**Year 8 Engineering Island Workshop**
Wednesday 11th May 2016

**Year 8 and 9 Routes into Languages**
Monday 6th June 2016 (FULLY BOOKED)

**Year 9 Business Taster Day**
Tuesday 22nd March 2016 (FULLY BOOKED)

**Year 9 Crime Conundrum Maths Workshop**
Wednesday 27th April 2016

**Year 10 Discovering Veterinary Science Day**
Wednesday 18th May 2016

**Year 10 Law Taster Day**
Wednesday 16th March 2016 (FULLY BOOKED)

**Year 10 and 11 Surrey Young Carers HE Day**
Wednesday 6th April 2016

**Year 12 and 13 Revision Conferences**
- Law AS (AQA), Monday 21st March 2116
- Biology AS Spec A (Edexcel), Tuesday 22nd March 2016
- Psychology A2 (AQA), Tuesday 22nd March 2016
- Law A2 (AQA), Tuesday 22nd March 2016
- Maths AS (Edexcel), Wednesday 23rd March 2016
- Psychology AS (AQA), Wednesday 23rd March

**Teacher Conference, Young Adult Carers in Education**
Monday 21st March 2016

Contact Us

Renata Eyres  
Head of Widening Participation & Outreach  
r.eyres@surrey.ac.uk

Alice McLaren  
WP & O Manager  
alice.mclaren@surrey.ac.uk

Katherine Sela  
Research, Evaluation & Data Support Officer  
k.sela@surrey.ac.uk

Hollie Baker  
WP E-Mentoring Coordinator  
h.baker@surrey.ac.uk

Jon Chandler  
WP Support Officer  
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences  
j.chandler@surrey.ac.uk

Lucy Carswell  
WP Support Officer  
Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences  
l.carswell@surrey.ac.uk

Amy Oatway  
WP Support Officer  
Faculty of Heath & Medical Sciences  
a.oatway@surrey.ac.uk

Adam Scales  
Student Learning Advisor (Outreach)  
a.scales@surrey.ac.uk

For KS2 & KS3 requests  
Nadia Daprato  
WP Support Officer  
n.daprato@surrey.ac.uk

For KS4 | KS5 & In2Surrey requests  
Jonathan Plummer  
WP Support Officer  
j.plummer@surrey.ac.uk