

Covid-19 and supporting prospective students

Raesah Ellis-Haque, Widening Participation Officer

Summer School Participant Reflection

Incredible, astounding and exceptional are the three adjectives I would use to describe my time at the virtual Bristol summer school programme. At first I was quite apprehensive about the summer school being virtual because I was looking forward to travelling to Bristol and feeling the atmosphere. However in the midst of this unfortunate pandemic I was still grateful and ecstatic that summer school was still going on.

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Summer School Participant Reflection

- BAME student
- POLAR Quintile 1
- First Generation
- Receives Free School Meals

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March 2020: Covid-19 hits

- 4 months before summer school programmes begin
- 360 students across 2 programmes expecting an outreach experience that they had been promised
- How can we fulfil the aims of each summer school in a virtual environment?



Original overarching aims

- Increase in students' confidence regarding HE and feeling of belonging
- Increase in students' making successful university applications
- Students being able to make more informed decisions about HE

Post covid-19 aims

- Increase in students' confidence regarding HE and feeling of belonging
- Increase in students' making successful university applications
- Students being able to make more informed decisions about HE
- Students feel valued at an increasingly uncertain time
- Students having a positive experience and interactions with a new method of delivery



Search...



Hi Raeesah

RE

WELCOME TO

SUTTON TRUST ONLINE

THURSDAY 30TH JULY

YOUR SCHEDULE TODAY

YOUR LIVE SEMINAR AT 11.00 [ZOOM LINK](#)

'STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT PANEL' AT 12.00 [ZOOM LINK](#)

'END OF THE WEEK QUIZ AT 14.30' [ZOOM LINK](#)

CHECK IN WITH YOUR MENTORS 15.30 – 16.30 [ZOOM LINK](#)

CHAT TO OUR COMMUNITY



Chat now

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:00 - 11:30	Get to know your mentors	Academic live seminars via Zoom			
11:30 - 12:00					
12:00 - 12:30				Live panel	Reflection check in
12:30 - 13:00					
13:00 - 13:30					
13:30 - 14:00					
14:00 - 14:30					
14:30 - 15:00	Get to know your mentors	Sports and societies sessions	Sports and societies sessions	End of the week quiz!	
15:00 - 15:30					
15:30 - 16:00		Check in with mentors			
16:00 - 16:30					

A reminder of our aims

- Increase in students' confidence regarding HE and feeling of belonging
- Increase in students' making successful university applications
- Students being able to make more informed decisions about HE
- Students feel valued at an increasingly uncertain time
- Students having a positive experience and interactions with a new method of delivery

Harnessing value

- Food boxes
- WiFi dongles
- Mentor check ins including one after the week ended
- Whole group panel session dedicated to students submitted questions
- Pre summer school check in with coordinator
- Small group sessions with academics

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A positive virtual experience

- STO platform aesthetics
- Back up emails with links
- Phone calls
- Method of communication with subject mentors



Building cohort spirit

- Daily student challenges
- Social activities
- End of week celebratory quiz

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Did it work?

Increase in students' confidence regarding HE and feeling of belonging	<i>"It definitely dismantled my perceptions of the university and made me think that I can find people like me at Bristol."</i>
Increase in students' making successful university applications	<i>96.9% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that completing [the] scheme has made [them] more likely to apply to the University of Bristol.</i>
Students being able to make more informed decisions about HE	<i>94.7% of participants highlighted that the scheme gave them a greater understanding of what it is like to be a student at the University.</i>
Students feel valued at an increasingly uncertain time	<i>92.4% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the food boxes made them feel valued.</i>
Students having a positive experience and interactions with a new method of delivery	<i>"I like the fact that it was interactive. Honestly, I wouldn't change anything"</i>

What else are we doing?

- Virtual resources for year 12 and year 13 available online <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/outreach/virtual-resources-for-students/>
- Explore! Virtual taster days for specific subjects to find out more about courses, student life and support available at UoB. <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/outreach/virtual-resources-for-students/virtual-explore-events/>
- A brand new year 13 virtual programme: Next Step Bristol (this closes midnight on the 30th Sept!) <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/outreach/post-16/nextstep/>
- All of our flagship projects are continuing to run and still mean that participating students would be eligible for a guaranteed contextual offer. These will be run both online and physically, depending on the govt guidelines <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/outreach/post-16/>
- Keep up to date by signing up to our Schools and Colleges Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/92334f6e4c5c/uoboutreachnewsletter>

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Over to Leeds!





UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

COVID-19

How are universities supporting new and current students?

Sarah Stephenson | Events Manager
Educational Engagement
University of Leeds



Overview



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How will campus be kept safe?

Welcome week and induction activities

Student education for 2020/21

Transition to university support: academic & pastoral

Student wellbeing

Staff training: “ Sense of Belonging”





How will campus be kept safe?

Staggered arrival dates and times

University accommodation

Social distancing and one-way systems

Cleaning and handwashing

Covid-19 testing

Face coverings for indoor communal areas

Advice and guidance





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Welcome Week

- New programme for 2020
- Online and outdoor opportunities
- University Residence Team activities
- Leeds University Union events
- School induction activities





Plans for student education September 2020

- **Blended learning**
 - use of digital technology for teaching large groups
 - face-to-face teaching for small groups where safe
- **Supporting students with technical barriers**
 - laptop loan scheme
 - supporting the transition to online learning
- **University library services**
 - Click and collect
 - Study space bookings





Supporting student success and the transition to university



Personal Tutor: academic and pastoral support

Student Success Officers: IAG and interventions

Skills@Library: study skills workshops

The Plus Programme: bespoke support for under-represented groups



Student wellbeing

NUS: Coronavirus and Student Survey 2020

Student Counselling and Wellbeing Service

Leeds University Union support

Nightline

Togetherall

Financial hardship support



Staff training and development

- 'Sense of belonging' webinars and resources
- Regular, effective communication
- Engaging teaching and learning activities
- Empathetic support for student circumstances
- Sharing best practice





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Thank you

Any questions?

