Healthy Heroes
Come to Campus!

On the run up to Christmas, the temptation is to gorge on chocolates and sweets as we celebrate the festive season. But three classes from local primary schools put these wishes aside and put on their healthy eating hats as they spent the day developing their healthy eating knowledge at our Healthy Heroes event.

At the beginning of the day, students crafted their perfect plate of food and were challenged to improve the plate by adding items to make it a balanced meal. The day also saw students don their lab coats as they took to the science laboratories to discover the secrets of lactose free milk. The last thing students were given the opportunity to make was their ‘Healthy Heroes Promise’: a pledge of how they were going to remain champions of healthy eating.

84 year 5 pupils took part in the event across the three days it ran in November and feedback from the event was extremely positive as 95% of students agreed or strongly agreed this event helped them to learn about university.

Year 6 students attend Primary Fair!

Across two days in October, 215 year 6 students, 19 teachers and 15 Student Ambassadors attended the annual Primary Fair.

Students started the day with an introduction to University with current students sharing their own university experiences. Students then took part in a number of hands on activities: a LEGO tower building challenge, piecing together a human skeleton assembly challenge, and a language challenge where they learnt to count and names animals in Spanish.

89% OF STUDENTS AGREED THE PRIMARY FAIR HELPED THEM THINK ABOUT GOING TO UNIVERSITY
Information, Advice and Guidance

From September to November, the WP&O department attended several careers fairs which were organised by schools and charitable organisations local to the Surrey area. At the careers fairs, WP&O Student Ambassadors managed to engage with a total of 934 students from years 7 – 13 as well as 136 parents and carers, passing on valuable information, advice and guidance about university.

Thank you to the following schools and organisations for inviting us to attend:

The Ashcombe School | Bishop David Brown School | The Glyn School | ALP Surrey | Sutton Education Services | Winston Churchill School | Woking High School

Language Teachers Learn New Ways to Use iPads in Teaching

On the 18th October we were joined by 10 Modern Foreign Languages teachers from our consortium schools. Teachers were invited to attend a professional development event focusing on the use of iPads within Modern Foreign Languages teaching. External trainer, Peter Dawes, demonstrated a variety of apps that would allow pupils and teachers to use iPads interactively in lessons. Teachers were given the opportunity to use these apps, gain tips on the best ways to incorporate technology into lessons and talk to each other about teaching practices in their schools.

100% OF TEACHERS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED AFTER TODAYS EVENT THEY KNOW WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE LANGUAGE COURSES AVAILABLE AT UNIVERSITY

90% OF TEACHERS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED AFTER THIS EVENT THEY WILL BE SHARING GOOD PRACTICE FROM OTHER SCHOOLS WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES

100% OF TEACHERS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED THE EVENT WAS STIMULATING AND INFORMATIVE
New Student Ambassadors Can’t Wait to Get Started!

In November, 57 brand new Student Ambassadors were welcomed to the department by attending our ‘Initial Ambassador Training Workshop’ - a comprehensive training day designed to support them in their new role. At the training day, ambassadors learnt about the WP&O department’s aims and objectives, the incredible impact ambassadors can have on the students we work with and the importance of safeguarding. The ambassadors also spent time developing skills in communication, effective facilitation and group management.

In addition to the Initial Training, we piloted our first ‘Refresher’ training session, aimed at enabling current and senior Student Ambassadors to develop the knowledge and skills gained from the initial training session. Out of the 22 ambassadors who attended, 100% reported that their knowledge of WP&O strategic objectives, target groups and evaluation strategy had improved, and that they more fully understood the skills needed to successfully carry out their roles as Student Ambassadors.

Training sessions in Vocal Confidence, Articulating Experiences and SEN Support are scheduled to run later this academic year.

Year 6 Students Take Part in a Whoopsy Whiffling Workshop

On the 2nd December 28 Year 6 pupils from Tillingbourne Junior School came to the University of Surrey for a day of drama activities. Pupils spent the day learning about physical theatre, soundscapes and other dramatic techniques, which they then used to create pieces of drama around some of Roald Dahl’s classic books. Drama pieces included the creation of Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory using their bodies and voices to create the machines and creating giants from nonsense words. Pupils were given the opportunity to perform in front of their class and learnt about being a good audience member.
Surrey Young Carers Attend Future Options Workshop

In October, Surrey Young Carers organised a ‘Future Options Workshop’ for young carers in year 11. Young Carers are children or young people under the age of 18, who provide regular and ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.

The Widening Participation and Outreach department were asked to deliver a session on support at university to the young carers. The session included information on the pastoral support available at university and more specifically the University of Surrey. Students also looked at case studies and had the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the workshop.

The evaluation of the workshop showed that 100% of students agreed or strongly agreed that after this session they understand how to find out about financial help that might be available at universities and 95% of students agreed or strongly agreed after this session they understand what student support services can offer in universities.

Students’ comments included ‘Really useful for knowing about what support it offered and what general life at uni is like’ and ‘I’d now like to attend uni’.

Surrey Young Carers finished off the successful day by offering the students the chance to enjoy themselves on a bowling trip.

As a department, we will continue to work with Surrey Young Carers and plan to offer several more events for young carers after Christmas.

Mature Learners Prepare for University at Pre

Our Mature Learners’ Pre-entry Day took place on the 7th September 2016. The day was advertised to mature learner’s (students aged 21 and over) who were due to start their first year of undergraduate study at the University of Surrey.

The day gave students the opportunity to explore aspects of university life in more depth from a Mature Learners’ perspective. Not only did the event seek to make students more aware of what to expect from their studies, it presented a fantastic opportunity for attendees to meet one another and to share their experiences prior to commencing their course of study.

92% OF STUDENTS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED THEY FELT MORE CONFIDENT THAT THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY

“This I have been so well informed throughout the day. I do not think there is anything I was concerned about that had not been talked about and explained during this day”

Mature Student

This year, for the first time, current mature learners supported the day’s activities. By sharing their own experiences of what it’s like to go to university as a mature learner, attendees felt reassured about their decision and could hear about the wonderful opportunities ahead of them.
There’s Been a Catastrophe on Campus!

In October, we launched our first ever sustained engagement programme - Catastrophe on Campus - offering 40 year 10 students a programme of campus visits, face-to-face sessions and online mentoring to encourage and support them throughout the first two terms of year 10. The programme invites their parents/carers to join them at three of the sessions.

The programme launch saw all 40 students and their parents/carers attend a day at university, meeting their mentors and exploring the campus. In the afternoon, students were given a simulation activity where they acted as ‘silver commanders’ and managed an imaginary explosion that had taken place on campus. It turned out the imaginary explosion was caused because of a dangerous contaminant which was released on campus, thereby resulting in the ‘Catastrophe on Campus’.

Throughout the programme students identified exactly which contaminant had been released on campus and the criminal who released it by participating in a variety of subject tasters such as Forensic Psychology and Chemistry. Students also learnt about major incidents from a Paramedic’s perspective and rose to the challenge of giving first aid to the ‘casualties’ affected by the imaginary explosion.

Once they had solved the case, the students had a really exciting day producing a professional news report in our Media department’s studios. The students were involved both on and off camera, being interviewed and working all the cameras and lights in the studio.

In December, parents/carers were invited to campus to watch the news report and recognise students’ progress so far. Students and parents/carers enjoyed a Christmas quiz where students could show off their newfound knowledge about university and the subjects they had explored.

“At the beginning of the day I didn't know what criminology or forensic science was but I now think that I understand it fully and I really loved it”

_Student, Year 10_

In January we will be launching the second phase of the programme where the students will research and develop a debate which will be showcased at the celebration ceremony in the final session of the programme in March.
Students Get to Know Their Minds at Psychology Taster

In December we delivered a new addition to the outreach calendar, a year 9 Psychology taster day! Aptly named, ‘Know Your Mind’, the event introduced students to the exciting field of Psychology. Throughout the day, students took part in workshops delivered by Psychologists, undergraduate and PhD students which covered a range of topics including the nature/nurture debate, research methods, personality and Cognitive Psychology. Amongst the facilitators was Professor Jane Ogden, a Health Psychologist and Doctor Naomi Winstone, a Cognitive Psychologist.

In each session the students were introduced to the theory behind the topic followed by interactive activities to reinforce everything they had learnt. For instance, in the Cognitive Psychology session students had the opportunity to take part in a memory experiment. The students completed the same memory tasks twice, once in a quiet room and again in a room with Christmas music playing! At the end of the experiment the students could see that they remembered more in the room under silent conditions than the distraction room. The students also discussed strategies, such as ‘chunking’, which can be used to remember increase memory capacity and they learnt that those strategies are studied in Cognitive Psychology. This really highlighted to the students how Psychology is applicable to our everyday lives!

The students findings plotted onto a graph

95% OF STUDENTS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED TODAY HAS GIVEN THEM A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TYPES OF CAREERS A DEGREE IN

75% OF STUDENTS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED TODAY'S EVENTS HAS HELPED THEM FEEL MORE CONFIDENT LEARNING ABOUT DIFFERENT SUBJECTS
Teachers Across Surrey Attend the Launch of a Coding Hub

On Thursday 1st December 2016, the University of Surrey co-launched the Woking & Guildford CAS Hub along with Woking High School.

CAS (Computing at School) provides an informal forum for teachers to share computing, coding and programming session plans and ideas whilst offering peer support. It is the aim of the Woking & Guildford CAS Hub to offer such support to teachers within the local area, with teachers from across Surrey welcome to join.

The launch event took place at Woking High School from 16:45 – 19:00. The event was hosted by Ahmed Afana of Woking High School and was attended by 9 teachers in total (7 Secondary & 2 Primary). In addition, members of University of Surrey’s Electronic Engineering, Computer Science and Widening Participation departments were present to discuss their research and outreach services with the teachers.

The hub is free to join and is open to all teachers in Surrey registered with Computing at School. It is the perfect environment for teachers currently leading areas of the computing curriculum who seek a sounding board to develop ideas, to receive ideas from fellow professionals or to improve confidence around the subject area. Please find our hub page located through the following link: https://community.computingatschool.org.uk/hubs/27

The event was followed with University of Surrey hosting a CAS led CPD session for teachers on Friday 2nd December. This all-day training event invited local CAS Hub Leaders and CAS Master Teachers to develop and share ideas and resources within an informal and practical environment with a view to developing resources and learning materials.

The CAS Hub launch and training event both coincided with the Coding Hub, an ongoing project set up to support Year 9 students at Woking High School with computing, coding and programming. The fortnightly Coding Hub is delivered for students meeting the Widening Participation criteria and has welcomed 17 students over the Autumn Term who have enjoyed completing mini projects, such as programming a calculator and designing their own hangman game.

The Coding Hub is currently in its third year at Woking High School and is a fantastic example of the outreach work taking place within Surrey in support of students with regards to computing. Should you and your school be interested in exploring such opportunities, please do not hesitate to join the Woking & Guildford CAS Hub to share your thoughts and ideas towards designing workshops in support of your own teaching.
Christmas Extravaganza!

On the 15th and 16th December 184 elves from 10 schools arrived at the University of Surrey for the WP&O department’s Christmas Extravaganza! The year 7 students took part in fun Christmas activities covering a range of subjects including Veterinary Science, Law, Maths, Chemistry, Geography and Media.

The elves learnt about reindeer and human anatomy and the nutritional content of a reindeer’s diet, before giving Santa's reindeer a health check in preparation for their important journey on Christmas Eve!

Geography and Media skills were then used by the elves in the Rudolph Report. The students worked out a route Santa could take on Christmas Eve and produced and created a script that was then filmed as a news report.

The elves also avoided a Christmas Crisis by putting together a legal defence case to save Santa from going to prison! The activity involved students putting on their best lawyer hat to analyse statements from witnesses ranging from Jingle Jangle the elf to Mr Scrooge himself! Students then presented their case to fight for Santa’s innocence.

Other activities involved making snow using a simple chemical reaction and solving 25 maths problems in order to reach the top of the advent calendar!
Female undergraduate students realise their full potential at Sprint

“AMAZING: made new friends, more confident, feel like I’m part of something”
Undergraduate Student

Sprint is a ground-breaking development programme designed for undergraduate women of all ages, and at any stage in their lives and study. Sprint is designed to help female students develop to their full potential by addressing their personal, professional and academic issues. The programme consists of four action-packed half day workshops which explore areas such as: assertiveness, making an impact, personal power, goal-setting, managing change, exploring personal values, confidence, networking and time-management.

As well as the positive written feedback, 100% of the Sprint participants said that they would recommend the programme to their peers at the University of Surrey.

Sue Hewett, the Sprint programme trainer and the co-ordinators at the University of Surrey, Caroline Barker and Laura Barnett, deemed the programme to be highly successful due to high levels of authentic engagement and commitment to the programme expressed by high levels of attendance by the participants. Each week the students put all of their energies into the weekly workshops’ which ensured that they got the most out of the programme.

The second Sprint programme of 2016/17 will take place from the 1st March 2017. For more information about the Sprint programme and details of how to sign up for March, please see our website: surrey.ac.uk/library/learning/sprint/

“The thought it was amazing and it has made me feel like part of a community”
Undergraduate Student
A Student Ambassadors Perspective

The Student Ambassador role had appealed to me ever since my Applicant Day at Surrey. I was struck by the approachability, honesty and friendly nature of the ambassadors, and I wanted to give that back to my university. That day had been my first experience of stepping foot inside a university, so when I heard about the work of the Widening Participation team with local schools I was excited to get involved when I started my degree!

The team gave me comprehensive training and I remember one concept particularly resonating with me afterwards: “rewarding.” Current ambassadors told me how rewarding the work would be and one year on I couldn’t agree with that more wholeheartedly. Being an ambassador in the WP and Outreach department has not only been a journey of personal development, from building my confidence in delivering presentations to groups of students, but it’s been an awful lot of fun and felt like such a worthwhile experience.

Getting to know the students is the highlight of the job as you hear all about their different ideas and aspirations for the future. It’s incredible to see how after attending only one Information, Advice and Guidance day, their perspectives may alter completely as they realise so many more opportunities are available to them than they originally thought possible!

Indeed, rather than university seeming like this daunting thing you wouldn’t ever consider until college, they are able to see what it’s really like first-hand, and can make informed decisions about their futures. I’ve really enjoyed how varied the events I’ve worked on have been. The team are so supportive, especially with development opportunities, as they allowed me to help design an introductory session and leaflet for students who are young carers.

The Student Ambassador role has been truly inspiring and made me consider teaching as career once I graduate. I’m so pleased that I’ve been able to participate in the work of the Widening Participation and Outreach team and look forward to supporting many more events in the future.

A day in the life of a Sociology Student

On the 19th December, 16 Year 12 pupils from Oxted School came to the University of Surrey to spend the day being sociology students. They were given the opportunity to experience a lecture and seminar, as well as discover the support services available and how to learn independently. The day focused around the subject of Sociology and students were lectured by academic Rob Meadows on whether sociology can be useful to the study of the topic Mental Health. Students then took part in some independent learning activities before discussing what they had learned with Rob Meadows and Maria Adams from the sociology department.

The day was a success and students learnt what it means to truly be a student including; making notes, thinking critically and exploring ideas in group discussions.
Summer Schools 2017

Across June and July we are running a broad range of residential summer schools that offer year 12 students the chance to experience studying a subject they are interested in at university! Students will be able to go to lectures, practical activities and seminars as well as fun social events in the evening whilst meeting students from schools across the country!

Summer School Dates

26th - 28th June
- Languages

3rd – 7th July
- Psychology
- Veterinary Science and Medicine
- Sports and Exercise Science
- Biomedical Science
- Nursing & Midwifery

10th - 14th July
- Engineering, Physics, Computer Science & Maths

17th - 21st July
- English & Creative Writing
- Business
- Law
- Media & Production Skills

Applications are open on the 4th January 2017.
For more information please visit surrey.ac.uk/summer

University of Surrey
Wonder Festival

On the 13th May 2017 the University of Surrey is holding a Wonder Festival to celebrate its 50th Anniversary! This event will have something for everyone from science demonstrations, music and dance performances, sports activities and hands-on workshops!

We’d love to see you there!

In2Surrey

In2Surrey is a nationwide programme aimed at students who have the desire and ability to study at the University of Surrey but are facing significant barriers to progression.

Eligible students benefit from additional support including an e-mentor who is a current student and a alternative offer equivalent to one grade lower.

The closing date for applications is 22nd January 2017.

For more information please visits surrey.ac.uk/in2surrey or email in2@surrey.ac.uk.
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Inspiring the next generation
Raising aspirations and attainment through partnership.