Celebrating the Success of Renata Eyres

Last month we bid farewell to Renata Eyres, who held the post of Head of Widening Participation & Outreach for 3 years. During Renata's time here at Surrey the team has almost tripled in size and we have engaged with 23,522 students! She has been the driving force in establishing the ethos of WP at Surrey and regularly attended the teams events, showing her support and enthusiasm for the activities we deliver. The Widening Participation & Outreach team here at Surrey would like to thank Renata for all her support and encouragement during her time here and wish her all the best for the future. Alice McLaren is currently the Interim Head of the department.

Some of our Student Ambassadors have also sent their messages of thanks to Renata.

‘Renata, it has been a pleasure working for the outreach department, what you guys have achieved is incredible. All the best for the future!’

(Michael Taricone, Student Ambassador)

‘I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have done over the last three years. I have seen the department grow from strength to strength and I know your going to be greatly missed by the team.’

(Harry Deards, Student Ambassador)

‘It has been a pleasure to work with you at ambassador events over the years. You and your smile will be missed greatly!’

(Heidi Webb, Student Ambassador)

In this issue:

Read about an array of Outreach activities that have been happening at Surrey over the past few months, from the workshop Deadly Diseases to Year 8 Week. Also meet one of our Student Ambassadors, Harry Deards!
Hello! My name is Hannah and I am joining the Widening Participation & Outreach team as the Officer for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. I graduated from the University of York in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics.

I am really excited to be joining the expanding team at the University of Surrey and look forward to developing the programme of outreach workshops and events associated with humanities subjects through the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Hello, my name is Rob and I am very excited to be joining the Widening Participation & Outreach team at the University of Surrey. I graduated from Oxford Brookes in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and International Relations.

I am extremely delighted to be joining a growing and fantastic team at University of Surrey and look forward to leading workshops and events in relation to the outreach work associated with the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Hello! My name is Polly and I am a Graduate Intern for the Widening Participation and Outreach department. I have recently graduated from the University of Surrey with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

During my degree I worked as a Student Ambassador for the department working at events such as the Surrey Skills Fair and Year 8 week. I am excited to work with the department over the next year and to get involved with the all the important work they do.

Hello, my name is Jocelyn and I am very pleased to be joining the Widening Participation & Outreach department as a Widening Participation Support Officer. I graduated from the University of Surrey with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Translation in 2013.

Since graduating I have worked at the Student Services Centre at the University of Surrey, working with first year students, supporting their transition to University. It is this experience, combined with my enjoyment of being a Student Ambassador that has led to me joining the team and I look forward to leading different workshops and events soon!

Hello, my name is Laura and I am a Student Learning Adviser (WP & Progression). I am based in SPLASH at the University library, but work collaboratively with the Department of WP&O. I graduated from Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) in 2009 with a BA Media and Cultural Studies with Business Studies.

Having worked at the University of Surrey as a Student Learning Adviser in the past, I am very excited to have re-joined the University working closely alongside the Department of WP&O and contributing to all of the important work that they do!

Meet the Newest Members of the Team
Year 8 week was attended by 189 Year 8 students, 11 Surrey schools, 171 parents/carers and 25 Student Ambassadors. The programme provided the opportunity to expand students’ knowledge of subjects inside and outside the current curriculum. Throughout the week, students also built up experience in team work, communication, problem solving, time management and organisation.

During the week students took part in a wide range of subject specific activities including Engineering, Poetry, Media, Drama, Chemistry and Law to name just a few!! They successfully worked together with Student Ambassadors and students from other schools throughout the week.

On the final day 78 parents and carers came onto campus for a Graduation Ceremony to celebrate students’ achievements throughout the entire week. Certificates were presented to students by Renata Eyres, Head of Widening Participation and Outreach.

Feedback from the week included:

“I thought the week was a good opportunity and gave me a lot of information about how life is in university. Also it made me feel more confident because it helped me and others to make new friends” (Student, Year 8)

“I really enjoyed the year 8 week. It was fantastic to see the students work together in the activities and how they approached each task” (Teacher, Year 8 students)
Year 6 Painting with Electricity

150 Year 6 students from Shottermill Junior School, Sandfield School and St Mary’s Byfleet took part in our hair-raising new workshop, ‘Painting With Electricity’. The workshop was developed in celebration of British National Science Week 2016 and was run in conjunction with another, more established workshop, ‘Science of the Senses’.

During the workshop, eager students volunteered to have their hair re-styled by our Van de Graaff Generator – a machine that generates enough static electricity to make your hair stand on end! Students spent the rest of the workshop consolidating their knowledge of electrical circuits and conductive materials before creating their very own flashing greetings cards, using LED lights and conductive paint.

Year 8 Engineering Island

80 Year 8 students from several Surrey schools attended another of our new workshops, ‘Engineering Island’. In this workshop, students imagined they were stranded on a deserted island and worked in teams to build three structures that would allow them to survive on and eventually escape from the island. The students managed to produce incredibly innovative and well-planned designs, using only the limited resources that were provided in their ‘survival kits’.

After this creative morning, students then spent the afternoon learning about how Engineering is relevant to the real world by researching the different types of Engineer and the jobs they do.

Comments about the day included:

“Very well planned & engaging day for the students!” (Teacher, Year 8)

“Today I learnt much more about engineering than I previously knew” (Student, Year 8)

“It was really fun and I have learnt much more about engineering in this trip.” (Student, Year 8)

“I enjoyed the session because it was fun and made me think more about my future and career choices” (Student, Year 8)
Year 9 Business Taster Day

In March, 39 students from 4 schools across Surrey attended a Business taster day in which the students developed a new product or idea in teams. The students then had the opportunity to pitch their idea as well as apply marketing principles to a business scenario.

Feedback from the event was positive and included:

“Very interesting and has allowed me to understand business further and improved my skills” (Student, Year 9)

“Good opportunity that made me want to achieve higher goals in future” (Student, Year 9)

91% of students agreed or strongly agreed today has made them want to work harder to achieve their full potential (Student, Year 9)

Year 8 and 9 Young Carers Event

In June, 13 Year 8 & 9 Young Carers attended a Higher Education Event which was delivered in collaboration with Action for Carers Surrey. The event involved taster sessions on Mandarin, Chemical Engineering and Bioscience as well as an introduction to university. The students also had the opportunity to explore the campus and student accommodation. They also had the opportunity to meet current university students and learn about all aspects of university life.

Feedback from the event was extremely positive, with 100% of students agreeing or strongly agreeing that they had a better understanding of the differences between school and university and 100% of students also agreed that they had a better understanding of the routes into a variety of careers.

Students and teachers also gave the following feedback:

“The activities we did were fun and I feel I know more about university than what I did I really want to come to Surrey University in the future. Thanks!” (Student, year 9)

“I think all the events were well thought out and were very informative” (Student, year 8)

“Great fun, very informative and great hosting” (Teacher, Year 9)

“A well organised day, very interactive!” (Teacher, Year 8)
Another new addition to the Outreach events catalogue, Challenge the Champions saw students invited to the University of Surrey Sports Park to put their knowledge of sports science and nutrition to the test. In the morning students completed a variety of challenges hosted by Surrey Human Performance Institute, with the aim of seeing how their performance matched up to the professionals. These included sprint, lung volume and jump height tests amongst others. Students were also tasked with developing their knowledge of nutrition, trying to see if they knew the correct portion sizes. We had a few big eaters in the group! In the afternoon students worked with the Strength and Conditioning coaches to plan, test and develop a training programme.

Feedback from the event included:

“I found today very fun as I got to work with others and learn about being a good athlete etc. I found the challenges and activities fun. The ambassadors were very helpful too.” (Student, Year 9)

“Really enjoyed today!! The activities were well planned & I had fun testing myself.” (Student, Year 9)

“Today was a very interesting and eye opening experience. It was very fun and enjoyed it all.” (Student, Year 9)
79 Year 9 students from 7 schools across Surrey took on the role of Crime Scene Investigators as they joined us on campus for another exciting new workshop, ‘Crime Conundrum’. Throughout the workshop, small teams of students used a variety of mathematical techniques to solve the details of a hypothetical crime. Students worked together to decipher how much money had been stolen from a university scholarship fund, who had taken the money, and where on campus the money was being hidden.

Feedback from the event was extremely positive, with 93% of students agreeing that they have a better understanding of the importance of maths and 81% of students agreeing that the event had motivated them to work hard at maths to reach their full potential. Students also made the following comments:

“I really enjoyed today as I learnt more about maths and had fun doing it” (Student, Year 9)

“The ambassadors were helpful and co-operative, the maths involved helped me realise maths is everywhere.” (Student, Year 9)

This workshop was developed by Mathematics Undergraduate and Student Ambassador, Harry Deards. Harry has written about his experience of developing and delivering the workshop in the Student Ambassador Spotlight.
Year 10 What Killed Steve the Stag

A firm favourite event returned again this year with a few minor changes. 60 students from 4 schools spent the day at our brand new school of Veterinary Medicine, attempting to solve the mystery of ‘What killed Steve the Stag’. Students took part in a pathology session to discover the cause of death, worked on how to manage a disease outbreak drawing up confinement zones, learned the clinical skills necessary to run checks on animals and debated animal welfare ethics. This jam packed day helped to highlight the variety of fields available within Veterinary Science and Medicine and helped students to develop scientific and critical thinking skills. Feedback from students and teacher included:

“This was the best trip I have ever been on, due to the fact we have learnt about veterinary skills, and I want to be a vet in the future, it was very enjoyable” (Student, Year 10)

“I feel my knowledge for biological science has improved drastically and my wanting to learn about how an Outbreak occurs/ways of controlling it” (Student, Year 10)

Year 10 Deadly Diseases

On the 4th May year 10 students from Therfield School and Hinchley Wood School were welcomed to the campus to take part in a Health Sciences taster event. A deadly disease had broken out on campus and students were drafted in as the emergency epidemiology team to help control the outbreak. Students were tasked with researching the outbreak and testing the possible sources of contamination. Luckily for all at the University these students managed to successfully discover and control the outbreak. After saving the university students and staff, they spent the afternoon discussing microorganisms in more detail and trying their hand at scrubbing up in the Operating theatre within the simulation suite. Who knew that putting a gown and gloves on could be so tricky?! Comments from the event include:

“I found today very helpful, overall it was a good opportunity to find out more about careers in science and I found out university has a wide range of courses that are very suitable and I am considering very strongly about coming to university” (Student, Year 10)

“Infection control in practice was great!” (Teacher, Year 10)
In April, we were joined on campus by a group of Year 10 students from Woking High to explore topics such as independent living, transferable skills and the importance of work experience. The students were given the chance to visit student accommodation and see what it’s really like to live away from home, as well as think about budgeting and time management skills. That accommodation visit then kick started an in depth look at transferable skills culminating in a team tower building competition, some of the results of which you can see below.

We were very fortunate to also be joined by Ben Daniell a final year Medical Engineering student who talked to Woking High about his experiences on his Professional Training Year placement where he designed and tested prosthetics at DePuy Synthes in Leeds.

In2Surrey Update

After our most successful year to date we have undertaken a thorough review of the In2Surrey Scheme and will be launching a new look programme later this year.

We are making the scheme even more accessible to students, even more rewarding and an even more unique experience for those taking part.

In2Surrey is part of the University’s Widening Participation programme. The scheme is designed to aid those students who have the ability and desire to study at the University of Surrey achieve their goals regardless of their social background or personal circumstances.

For those eligible Year 13 students we hope to provide:

- An alternative offer; equivalent to one grade lower than a standard offer
- Access to an E-Mentor (current undergraduate)
- A one off In2Surrey Award of between £500 - £2000 depending on offers and grades achieved
- Invitation to special events hosted by the University of Surrey
- Support and guidance to assist you with the transition to university

For full eligibility details and further information please visit surrey.ac.uk/in2surrey
Teacher Professional Development

Maths, Science, Computing and DT teachers were invited onto campus for a professional development event, exploring how the subjects they teach relate to Engineering and how they could best support their students to pursue Engineering as a career pathway.

Teachers were given a talk from special guest, SEMTA, about the many different branches of Engineering and the vocational and academic pathways students could take on the road to becoming an Engineer. Dr David Carey, the Head of Department for Electronic Engineering at the University of Surrey, was also present to deliver a talk on what universities look for in prospective Engineering students.

The event concluded with a question and answer session, in which teachers had the opportunity to speak with some of Surrey’s current undergraduate and postgraduate Engineering students about their experiences of studying Engineering at university and how they felt teachers could best support students who were interested in becoming Engineers. At the end of the event, teachers were also provided with resource packs, containing information on how to support students interested in Engineering alongside Engineering-based lesson plans and activity ideas to try out in the classroom.

The feedback from the event was positive:

- 100% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that they had a better understanding of the potential engineering career pathways post A level
- 100% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that after the event they felt more able to support students in their pathway to higher education
- 100% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that after the event they felt more able to provide engineering careers information to students

Year 12 and 13 Revision Conferences

Across three days 270 year 12 and 13 students and 20 teachers attended revision conferences covering the subjects law, biology, psychology and mathematics. The Revision Conferences were delivered by experts who previously had worked for the exam boards AQA and Edexcel.

Feedback for the conferences included:

- 88% of students agreed or strongly agreed after today's event they feel more confident in their exam technique
- 92% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that the revision conference will help them to support students in their exams
- 75% of students agreed or strongly agreed that after today's event they feel motivated to work harder at school/college
Young Persons’ University

During the three weeks from 27th June – 15th July the WP&O Department ran twelve Young Persons’ University (YPU) residential summer school programmes for Widening Participation students from across the UK. Each of our three faculties ran at least two summer schools, providing students with a huge variety of subjects to choose from.

**Week one** Law, Engineering, Bioscience, Business

**Week two** Media, Nutrition, Food & Exercise, Physical Sciences, Veterinary Science, Languages

**Week three** Paramedic Practice, Operating Department in Practice, Nursing & Midwifery

A total of 266 students were welcomed to the University of Surrey where they had the opportunity to attend lectures, practical sessions and complete research projects delivered by academic staff and guest speakers. Over the course of the week the students were able to develop their transferable skills of team work, communication, presentation and research. The students stayed in student accommodation at the University of Surrey, providing an opportunity to gain an authentic insight into life as a university student.

All students are part of an e-mentoring programme which pairs them up with a student ambassador to support them through to their UCAS application.

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**Inspiring the next generation.**

Raising aspirations and attainment through partnership.
Feedback from the students was extremely positive with 92% of students agreeing that they have a better understanding of the types of careers a degree can lead to and 91% of students agreed or strongly agreed they have a better understanding of the social opportunities at university. Students also highlighted increased awareness of skills used at university with 94% of students agreed they have a better understanding of the need for good research skills.

‘My confidence has definitely increased - I found myself willingly starting conversations with people before they talked to me’ (Engineer Student, YPU).

‘I found the week interesting and informative, which allowed me to make a more informed decision about the

A big thank you to the following people for making the summer schools possible:

Dr Rick Woods | Dr David Carey | Mr Will Scott-Jackson | Mr Steve Mills | Professor Rex Thorpe | Dr Suze Kundu | Dr Hamid Mahmoudi | Mr Jianyi Zhang | Mr Vinoth Celladurai | Dr Guohong Tian | Dr Alan Packwood | Mr John Doherty | Mr Alex van Heesewijk | Miss Katie Stephenson | Dr Mike Mulheron | Mr Tony Thorne | Dr Juan Sagaseta | Mr Alireza Behnejad | Mr Mehdi Rouholamin | Mr Nsikak Ulaeto | Dr Mike Hornsey | Dr Konstanze Hild | Dr Rick Woods | Dr Stuart Thomason | Dr Helen Treherne | Dr Justin Read | Mr Simon Barnes | Miss Louise Dummott | Dr Heather Campbell | Dr David Fisher | Dr Daniel Ratliff | Professor Ian Roulestone | Dr Jock McOrist | Mr Josh Haider-Smith | Mr Vladimir Georgiev | Mr Andrew Chetwynd | Mr Lorenzo Lavia | Alfred Thumser | Dr Simon Park | Dr Alison Cottell | Professor David Blackbourn | Dr Ian Bailey | Miss Stacy Berry | Professor Helena Lanham-New | Mr William Lanham-New | Dr Julie Hunt | Mr Joe Wainwright | Dr Terri Grassby | Professor Margaret Rayman | Dr Adam Collins | Dr Jorge Gutierrez | Dr Jonathan Brown | Dr Kathryn Hart | Dr Barbara Engel | Mrs Sue Phillips | Professor Roberto La Ragione | Dr Dan Horton | Dr Ilknur Aktan | Dr Chris Palgrave | Miss Bridget Roberts | Dr Martha Betson | Dr Matt Jones | Miss Abbe Martyn | Miss Izzy Stokes | Mrs Dawn Thickner | Ms Nicky Boyden | Miss Jaime Sutherland | Ms Becky Greenacre | Mrs Sarah Roberts | Mrs Annette Davies | Ms Ihinosen Ovbude | Mrs Rebecca Barnley | Mr Clive Tobutt | Mrs Elizabeth Langley | Ms Lizzie Crowhurst | Mrs Amy Dopson | Mr Andi Sambrook | Mrs Claire Tarrant | Mr Mark Stobbart | Mrs Claire Horsfield | Mrs Susan Pratt and her production team | Dr Laura Harvey | Miss Caitlin Knight | Mrs Laura Barnett | Dr Christine Hine | Ms Claire Wilkie | Professor Marco Mongiello | Ms Heidi Hazeu | Miss Jullie Nurse | Dr Dawn Marley | Dr Leona Archer | Dr Alexandra Kleinlercher | Miss Marga Menendez-Lopez | Ms Elaine Carter

Ambassadors


Inspiring the next generation.
Raising aspirations and attainment through partnership.
Young Persons’ University

Inspiring the next generation.
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The Learning and Development team at the University of Surrey are dedicated to supporting the academic development of students whilst they study at the University, helping them achieve their academic goals and become independent learners. The team are made up of Student Learning Advisers and Information Skills Librarians offering a wide range of services across the campus, and online.

From their base in the library, known as SPLASH (Student Personal Learning and Study Hub), the team provide daily drop-in sessions for students to seek advice regarding their work. This might be a request for help with referencing in their dissertation or tips on essay planning and structure. The team also offer longer appointments where they can get stuck into more complex issues, such as assisting in a student’s development of their academic writing. In addition, workshops are on offer to groups of students on specific topics such as research methods and critical thinking.

Across the campus, the team work with faculty staff offering teaching sessions embedded into student’s learning and tailored to their needs. Recent sessions have been delivered to nurses and students at the brand new Vet School.

The team also coordinate and deliver development programmes for students. These include STARS: a unique development scheme designed to identify the needs of, and offer support to, high achieving second and final year students. Also the SPRINT programme: designed for undergraduate women, to help develop to their full potential and address both study and career issues, looking beyond study to life after university.

As an integral part of the library, the team get involved in the full range of Welcome Week activities, explaining to new students how SPLASH can help them.
I have been at Surrey for three years now and one of the first things I did when I arrived was sign up to be a Student Ambassador. During this time I have learnt so much through being involved and I look forward to continuing my work with the Widening Participation and Outreach team after the summer break.

I have been involved with numerous Ambassador Events since I have been here including the summer schools last year, Year 8 week and helping at the new ambassador training. Each opportunity has enhanced my personal development. This has included learning to work as a team, managing small groups and enhancing my leadership skills.

Most recently I have worked alongside Lucy developing a maths workshop for 30 year 9 students. Both times we have run the event it has been very successful and the student engagement has been outstanding. By developing a workshop as an Ambassador I have been able to increase my confidence in delivering to an audience as well as learning many soft skills which will hopefully enhance my employability. In addition seeing the amount of work that goes into an event opens your eyes to the fantastic work the team do.

I am looking at going into teaching after I graduate so being able to work with students and deliver workshops whilst still being an undergraduate is such a fantastic opportunity.

Meet Harry Deards, a Mathematics student who has been working as a Student Ambassador for the Widening Participation and Outreach for three years. Harry has kindly offered to write an article about his role as a Student Ambassador including his experience of developing and delivering the workshop, Crime Conundrum.
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