Year 8 Exploring Higher Education Week

Year 8 Week was attended by 71 Year 8 Students from 7 Surrey schools. Throughout the week students had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of events including Engineering, Drama, Law, Sports and Nutrition. Students also participated in team building activities and motivational workshops. At the end of the week parents and carers were invited to attend a graduation celebration.

Students who attended Year 8 Exploring HE week said:

‘I enjoyed this week because we could learn about different subjects and careers. We could meet different people and do teamwork.’

‘The week has been an amazing experience and I wish I could do it again. The ambassadors have been amazing.’

‘This week has been extremely fun and insightful to what decisions I will make in the future’
Festival of Wonder: A fun-filled celebration day!

On Saturday 13th May the University of Surrey continued its 50th anniversary celebrations with the first ever Festival of Wonder. Thousands of guests attended the festival; including alumni, students, staff and members of the local community.

The event featured a host of zones for all ages; guests had the opportunity to participate in fun activities such as the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, a chocolate demonstration, virtual reality rides to space, and horse drawn carriage campus tours. Wonder Talks took place throughout the day that included Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, The Supervet, speaking about the story of his career and his passion for Veterinary Medicine.

Our Passport to your Future zone was filled with exciting hands-on activities, experiments and information about university, further education and the many careers and professions showcased around the Festival. Our activities included DNA extraction from strawberries, writing a mini manifesto and discovering Plasma rockets. Our zone saw nearly 2000 visitors throughout the day and we would like to thank everyone who took part and helped make the activities a huge success.

To contact the department of WP&O please email us at wp@surrey.ac.uk
Year 6 Roald Dahl Drama Workshop

Between December and May 2017, 454 Year 6 students from 10 primary schools across Surrey attended Roald Dahl Drama Workshops at the University of Surrey! With the helping hand of Drama Tutors from the Guildford School of Acting, students delved into the splendidferous world of Roald Dahl.

The students let their imaginations run wild for the day and created gloriumptious plots, transformed themselves into world famous Roald Dahl Characters and played interactive drama games.

Year 8 Engineering Island

In this workshop, students imagined they were involved in a shipwreck and ended up on a deserted island. Each group of students was given a survival kit and was asked to construct three different structures out of unusual materials like marshmallows, spaghetti and lollipop sticks. This activity helped students to develop team work and critical thinking skills. Students were also introduced to University and enjoyed a campus tour led by the Student Ambassadors.

During the afternoon, students explored the different disciplines of Engineering and learned about the relevant career paths available.

97% of students agreed or strongly agreed after today their confidence in their understanding of Engineering has grown.
'Your Future' - Refugee and Asylum Seeker project

April marked the launch of our first ever project with Refugees and Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers in collaboration with Surrey County Council. The first two workshops were held in Woking. Primary school aged children and their parents and Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and their Foster Carers attended the workshops. Students worked through a series of activities to introduce them to university, student life and the range of subjects on offer to study. The primary children enjoyed designing a campus and had lots of questions to ask our Student Ambassadors.

The older students had 1-1 coaching from our Student Ambassadors about the pathways they can take to get to university or their desired career choice, they also had a great time completing an engineering challenge at the end of the second workshop. The final workshop, a visit to the University in June will conclude the programme.

Year 10 Programme: Catastrophe on Campus

This year we welcomed 37 Year 10 students on to our first ever Catastrophe on Campus: Year 10 Programme, a six month sustained engagement programme of on campus visits and online mentoring which aimed to encourage, inspire and motivate students and increase their self-confidence. Students took on the roles of experts in the fields of Forensics, Media, Psychology and Chemistry to manage the outbreak of a disaster and catch the culprit. The programme targeted students who were capable of achieving 5 A*-C grades but needed a boost to encourage them to succeed. Students and their families were able to explore university, developing their knowledge of university life and support, courses and careers as well as the skills needed to study at Higher Education.

84% of students said that the programme had increased their self-confidence

One of the students said:

“I strongly believe that my confidence has greatly improved since starting the year 10 programme”

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