

Future Focus 2023/24

Outreach for young people from Armed Forces families (service pupils)



What is Study Higher and why do we work with service pupils?

Study Higher is part of a national widening participation partnership called **Uni Connect**. We give impartial information to young people who are underrepresented in higher education (HE), and service pupils are one of these underrepresented groups. Service pupil education and HE progression can be adversely affected by aspects of their military lives, such as mobility and deployment. The Office for Students deems service pupils to be an **at-risk group when it comes to equality of opportunity**.

Study Higher's service pupil outreach 2023/24



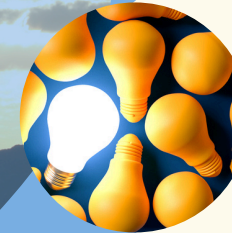
University of the West of England (UWE) November 2023

- Apprenticeships and alternative pathways
- Sense of belonging in HE
- Insight into a university campus
- Specific support for service pupils in HE



Buckinghamshire New University (BNU) February 2024

- Pupil motivation for learning with Revolution Hive
- Feel for a university campus
- Engagement with university Student Ambassadors
- Self-reflection and future options



Igniting Futures, RAF Brize Norton April 2024

- Subject-specific STEM event
- Building a wind turbine with STEMWorks
- STEM careers and HE with BNU
- Interviewing RAF STEM personnel

Who have we engaged with?

109

service pupils in Years 9-11 have engaged with Future Focus since 2021

66

service pupils engaged in 2023/24

43

Year 9s

21

Year 10s

59

pupils attended Igniting Futures

63%

of pupils in 2023/24 were from POLAR Quintiles 1/2, which have the lowest HE progression rates

8 events since 2021

Future Focus has facilitated eight events with different HE institutions since 2021

- University of Oxford
- University of Reading
- Royal Agricultural University
- Oxford Brookes University
- University of the West of England
- Buckinghamshire New University

5 schools engaged in 2023/4

- Burford School
- Carterton Community College
- Fitzharrys School
- Icknield Community College
- Wallingford School

Additional outreach work

Since 2021, Future Focus has also:

- Supported Oxfordshire's Festival of Friends
- Provided Maths enrichment activities
- Supported a Service Pupil Voice Conference

Future Focus: Study Higher's impact in 2023/24

Study Higher aims for a holistic approach, addressing service pupils' experiences, needs and barriers to HE.

HE pathways

Insight into traditional and alternative routes

Increased my knowledge of higher education and helped me make up my mind what I want to do in years to come
- Service pupil

100%

of pupils found our apprenticeships event useful and interesting

Subject engagement - STEM

Insight into HE and professions

of pupils at Igniting Futures found the day interesting

It had taught me lots of new things about STEM and its opportunities
- Service pupil

90%

83%

of pupils felt they had more knowledge about studying STEM post-18

Confidence and motivation

For current and future learning

Really engaged and the students who thought they wouldn't enjoy it joined in and gave it a go
- Teacher feedback

The people involved were really friendly and approachable. It was an engaging event with motivational people. I feel better about maybe applying to a university
- Service pupil

Attainment and skills

Self-awareness, subject links to real life

It helped with taking responsibility of myself a load more
- Service pupil

Helped me better understand myself and others and helped me with social skills and working as a team
- Service pupil

Sense of belonging

HE is for people 'like me'

It's interesting and makes students realise that university isn't just for 'clever' people
- Teacher feedback

100%

of pupils at our apprenticeships event could imagine themselves progressing to HE

Specific support available for service pupils

Bursaries, pastoral, disclosing service pupil status on UCAS

80%

of pupils became more aware of HE support specific to service pupils

It was great hearing from everyone. They made me feel better about not being certain about what I want to do
- Service pupil

Future Focus: Next steps for 2024/25

Years 9 & 10: Subject-specific outreach

Following success with our Igniting Futures STEM event, we will run more subject-specific outreach. This will allow young people to connect their current learning with the wider world and to explore potential future options

Arts and Humanities Day

Oxford Brookes University, Harcourt Hill
Thursday 21st November 2024

Year 9s and 10s

Allowing students to explore the arts and humanities and potential future options through interactive sessions

STEM Day

Spring 2025
Date and location TBC

Year 9s and 10s

Allowing students to explore STEM education and careers through interactive sessions

Uni Fusion

Oxford Brookes University
Saturday 7th December 2024
Years 11-13/college students

Giving students an insight into HE and exploring their motivation for learning and making informed decisions about their future

Co-design project

Designed by service pupils for service pupils

A project that will gather the voice and views of service pupils and then work with older students to co-design an outreach resource specifically for this target group

Older students: HE motivation and co-design

Our outreach for older students will be based around HE guidance and motivation alongside a co-design project, which will focus on service pupil voice and views