Future Focus 2024/25

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

STUDY HIGHER

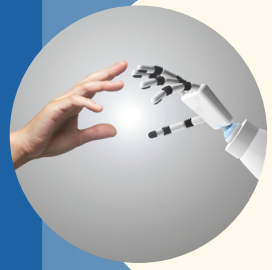
What is Study Higher and why do we work with service pupils?

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 2024/25

Arts and Humanities Day
Oxford Brookes University, November 2024

- Subject-specific outreach event
- Workshops in translation, history and music
- Speed-interviewing with arts and humanities professionals and current HE students



Igniting Futures STEM Day
RAF Brize Norton, March 2025

- Subject-specific outreach event
- K'Nex Build earthquake workshop by STEMWorks
- Augmented Reality workshop by Study Higher
- Speed-interviewing with STEM professionals

New project this year

Co-Design Project
Spring 2025

- Focus on service pupil voice and views
- Service pupils expressing their identities through creative methods, e.g. graffiti wall and comic strips
- Workshops with Year 9s and 10s in 4 schools
- Innovative approach to inform future outreach
- Insightful findings into the service pupil experience

Who have we engaged with?

116 service pupils engaged in 2024/25

226 service pupils have engaged with Future Focus since 2021/22

- **64** pupils at our Arts and Humanities Day
- **35** pupils at Igniting Futures
- **54** pupils took part in our Co-Design Project

- **7** Year 8s
- **58** Year 9s
- **47** Year 10s
- **4** from other years

8 schools engaged in 2024/25

- Carterton Community College
- Fitzharrys School
- Icknield Community College
- Wallingford School
- The Bicester School
- John Colet School
- Highworth Warneford School
- Faringdon Community College

10 events & 4 workshops since 2021/22

Future Focus has facilitated 10 events with different HE institutions since 2021/22:

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

Additionally, Study Higher facilitated 4 co-design workshops in schools in 2024/25.

Additional work

Since Future Focus started in 2021/22, Study Higher staff have also:

- Attended the annual SCiP Alliance conference and co-led the SCiP Alliance Central England Hub
- Supported Oxfordshire's Festival of Friends
- Presented at Oxfordshire County Council's *Supporting Service Children's Education Conference* (Mar 25) and the *Thriving Lives for Service Children Conference* (Jan 24)

Future Focus: Study Higher's impact in 2024/25

Study Higher aims for a holistic approach, addressing service pupils' experiences, needs and barriers to HE.
The impact summary below focuses on the Arts and Humanities Day and Igniting Futures, where formal evaluation took place.

HE and career pathways
Insight into different routes and professions

74% of pupils agreed at the end of Igniting Futures that they could imagine going into HE, up from 63% at the start.

69% of pupils agreed at the end of the Arts and Humanities that they could imagine going into HE, up from 58% at the start.

I know more information about university that I can use in the future, I saw how university looks like from a student's point of view.
-Pupil feedback

It had broadened my logic on career paths and showed the background of people from multiple jobs.
-Pupil feedback

Subject-specific insights
Insight into arts & humanities and STEM

84% of pupils agreed at the end of the Arts and Humanities Day that they had good awareness of different pathways in the arts and humanities, compared to just 22% at the start of the event.

It has helped me understand what STEM is
-Pupil feedback

80% of pupils agreed at the end of Igniting Futures that they had good awareness of different pathways in STEM, compared to 43% at the start of the event.

Confidence and motivation
For current and future learning

I feel more confident going into higher education.
-Pupil feedback

I really think the speed-interviews were beneficial and really got the kids to get out of their shells.
-Presenter feedback

Gave them confidence and space to ask questions about jobs, a future they may not have considered. Opened their world view.
-Presenter feedback

I feel more confident and comfortable.
-Pupil feedback

Specific support available for service pupils
Bursaries, pastoral, disclosing service pupil status on UCAS

It showed me the options I have as a service child
-Pupil feedback

84% of pupils at the end of the Arts and Humanities Day agreed that they were aware of the benefits of disclosing their service pupil status in an educational setting, up from 70% at the start.

Sense of belonging
These pathways are for people 'like me'

71% of pupils reported at the end of Igniting Futures that they felt they would fit into the STEM industries, compared to just 37% at the start.

63% of pupils reported at the end of the Arts and Humanities Day that they felt would fit into the arts and humanities industries, compared to just 35% at the start.

Connecting with role models
Meeting professionals and HE students

95% of pupils at our Arts and Humanities event agreed that it was useful to meet professionals and university students in the arts and humanities.

I learned new things from professionals about other careers that I can take.
-Pupil feedback

Provided a broad range of perspectives they otherwise wouldn't have access to.
-Presenter feedback

Meeting professionals in a wide range of arts/humanities roles was inspiring.
-Teacher feedback

Skills and personal development
Self-awareness, skills for the future

It has given me more of an idea in what I want to do when I'm older
-Pupil feedback

It has opened my eyes to qualifications I need and how to handle my decisions
-Pupil feedback

89% of pupils at Igniting Futures and **88%** of pupils at the Arts and Humanities Day agreed that they had learnt new things that they will use in future

Speed interviews make it real world relevant.
-Teacher feedback