The UK’s European university

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

A guide for teachers and educators
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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Kent is a leading university, among the top 20 in the UK. Our academic schools produce world-class research and we are rated as internationally excellent, leading the way in many fields of study. As well as inspirational teaching, we offer a superb student experience to equip our graduates for a successful future. That process begins with our outreach work in schools and colleges.

Kent has a richly diverse student population, from 18-year-old school leavers to mature students who have chosen to continue their formal education.

We welcome students from all backgrounds: from local residents to students from more than 145 countries across the world. This diverse student community is rewarding, not only for students but also for the academics who teach them.

We know that students at school may not always be inspired by the thought of further years of study. However, as generations of graduates before them have discovered, university is vastly different from school.

It not only offers students an opportunity to immerse themselves in subjects that interest them but, also, the social side of university means that they will make friends for life.

The University of Kent, working in partnership with secondary schools and colleges, is committed to helping young people to get the most out of higher education.

I hope that you will be inspired by the work Kent is doing to steer students towards an interesting and rewarding future.

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow DBE, CBE, FMedSci, FInstP
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Kent holds activities, lectures and conferences on our Canterbury and Medway campuses and in schools. On the following pages you will find all the activities available to schools, students and teachers:

• Higher education talks and workshops
• Outreach activities
• Adult and family learning.
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OUR WORK WITH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

At the University of Kent we believe that anyone with the academic ability to study at university should have the opportunity to do so. This is why we are committed to our involvement with schools and colleges, encouraging young people and adults to embrace the value of higher education, and help them to realise the important part it can play in their lives.

We provide talks, workshops and activities, both on campus and in schools, to broaden horizons and raise aspirations; we have a highly developed, comprehensive, Partner School Curriculum for selected schools and colleges and we provide support to adults and community groups.

A passion for education
Kent has some of the best teaching staff in the country, who challenge young people to reach their full potential. For five years running, National Teaching Fellowships have been awarded to our academics in recognition of their outstanding work and 97% of our staff work in departments producing world-leading research.

Our specialist staff, who have a wealth of experience of working in schools and colleges, have created a wide range of on-campus and school-based activities to encourage students to think outside of the national curriculum.

Working closely with the University’s academics, our teams create events, modules and workshops to share our passion and inspire students to go on to higher education. What’s more, involving our specialist teachers, academic staff and student ambassadors in the delivery of these activities ensures that our work with schools and colleges is truly representative of the breadth of expertise and experience that the University has to offer.

Activities for school students are delivered via Kent’s enthusiastic staff, many of whom are recent Kent graduates who know the value of a university education and use this personal knowledge to inform and inspire potential students. Our student ambassadors are great role models and this work gives them an opportunity to put their learning into practice, gain vital skills that will be useful in the workplace and share their passion for their specialist subject areas with enquiring minds.

We host Open Days, campus tours and information events at our campuses to give students an idea of what studying at university is like, see p3 for details.

By working with schools, both on and off campus, we are able to encourage students to recognise all that university life has to offer and to view higher education as a natural next step.

Who is this brochure for?
This brochure is designed for anyone who has an interest in the education of young people. It highlights the services we provide and the opportunities available to school and college communities in general, as well as the particular programme for our partner schools and colleges.

Whether you are a teacher with a particular aim in mind, or have a general interest in what we do, we hope that you not only find what you need but that you also discover a few surprises along the way.

Please look at the range of activities we offer and do get in touch if there are any bespoke activities or events we can provide to support your students in their future educational endeavours.

International schools
We support schools throughout the UK and the EU, and have an active International Development Team who travel further afield to countries beyond the EU. They visit schools overseas to help potential applicants consider the benefits of continuing their education at UK universities.

Further information
For more details about our activities, see www.kent.ac.uk/secondary or contact Enrolment Management Services on +44 (0)1227 827272 or information@kent.ac.uk

International schools in the UK and the EU should contact the Recruitment and Marketing Unit at eurec@kent.ac.uk

Non-EU international schools should contact International Development via the website at www.kent.ac.uk/international/contact
THINKING ABOUT UNIVERSITY?

Visiting a university campus and talking to students and staff can raise aspirations and inspire young people to achieve. Our campus-based events enable those who are still at school to see what really goes on at university, to meet the people who study, live and work here and try it for themselves.

UCAS higher education conventions
UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, organises higher education conventions in the UK every year. Our recruitment officers attend these events to advise school leavers about the value of higher education. These conventions play a vital part in helping students decide what and where to study within higher education. For more information see www.ucas.com/students/events

Higher education conferences
The University is aware of the demands on schools to provide advice and guidance on higher education. With this in mind, we run campus visits each academic year with multiple schools attending in the style of a higher education conference with a variety of subject-specific lectures, giving students an understanding of what it is like to be a university student. For more details see www.kent.ac.uk/ems/services/recruitment

Higher education talks and workshops
We offer a programme of talks and workshops to encourage students to consider continuing their education. Our staff can attend parents’ evenings, careers events and other higher education activities, delivering talks about the broader aspects of university study:

Talks
A general guide to university
This introduction to higher education covers a range of topics including: why go to university?, choosing a course and a university, UCAS, and student finance.

Why go to university?
The benefits of studying at university are explained, including career prospects, financial benefits, social and academic opportunities.

How to choose a course and a university
Advice on how to use league tables and prospectuses, and the importance of visiting a campus before making a final decision.

Preparing for university life
What happens after a student has submitted their application to UCAS. We outline the timetable of events, interviews and offer tips for Clearing.

Interviews
We offer advice on how students should approach university interviews and explain what admissions tutors are looking for.

Student finance
This covers the four main questions students ask when considering higher education: how much does it cost, how do I pay for it, how do I manage my money and what do I get for my money?

Workshop sessions
Time planning
This offers advice on how to balance the demands of seminars, lectures, part-time employment and social activities while at university.

Budgeting
How to balance outgoings (fees, accommodation and other living costs) with income (student loans, part-time employment, scholarships).

Location, location, location
An interactive map of the UK encourages students to think about the implications of travelling to and from their chosen university.

Choosing a course and a university
Students are asked to think about the location, facilities and academic and social amenities on offer when they are choosing where to study.

Mock interviews
This is an opportunity for students to practice their interview skills and receive constructive feedback.

Prioritising
University life can be demanding, with academic, social and other demands. This session focuses on creating a healthy work/life balance while studying.

Studying locally
We look at the pros and cons of staying at home versus moving away. This includes advice on making the most of university life for students who study locally and getting used to living on campus for those who venture further afield.

Student life
We discuss the realities of student life and offer advice on adjusting to life at university. Meeting new people, managing financially and living on campus rather than being at home are also discussed.

UCAS and personal statements
We explain the UCAS process, in particular, why applying early is important, and offer advice on completing the UCAS form. We also offer tips on how to write a strong personal statement.

Further information
For further details, or to book any of these talks or workshops, please visit: www.kent.ac.uk/secondary/talks.html

Open Days
The University hosts a number of Open Days at our Canterbury and Medway campuses during the summer and autumn, which attract up to 5,000 visitors each year. They are aimed at anyone who is interested in pursuing higher education and provide an excellent opportunity for prospective students and their families to see the campus facilities, meet academic staff and decide if Kent is right for them.

All Kent’s academic schools are involved in Open Days, with staff and admissions officers able to answer questions about specific courses and the application process. We offer a full programme of activities including subject talks and demonstrations, workshops, and taster lectures. See www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Campus Tour Days
We offer Campus Tour Days to prospective students who may be unable to attend a UCAS Visit Day or an Open Day. The campus tours are led by a Kent student/graduate who can answer questions and offer insights about life at Kent.

Campus Tour Days are held at our Canterbury campus on Mondays and Fridays and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at our Medway campus.

Visitors are required to book online at www.kent.ac.uk/informal
INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

The University has a long tradition of successful and innovative outreach activity. Taking our work into schools plays a vital part in raising and widening the aspirations of young people. While our campus events set imaginations alight our in-school activities keep them burning.

Anthropology and Conservation

Eco-School Day (on campus)
The practical aspects of environmental anthropology and conservation are the subject of a one-day event, held in July. Students explore Canterbury’s green and tranquil campus, set in 300 acres of parkland, to identify plants, understand their uses, engage in organic gardening and develop an understanding of conservation and the management of wildlife.

Architecture

Workshops, day events and a summer school on our Canterbury campus reveal the broad appeal of studying architecture.

Look, Design and Sketch (on campus)
This one-day, campus-based event offers a chance to experience a day in the life of an architecture student, with practical workshops and sessions in our architecture studios.

Listen, Think, Draw (in school)
This workshop uses examples of modern architecture and students create their own designs by learning to draw plans, sections and elevations.

Architecture Summer School (on campus)
This three-day non-residential summer school on our Canterbury campus is for anyone looking for a more intensive experience and includes workshops such as sketching, designing and model making.

Arts

Drama and Film students can visit our award-winning Jarman Building at the School of Arts on the Canterbury campus for a range of activities and taster sessions.

Studio 3 Gallery (on campus)
The Gallery hosts prestigious exhibitions curated by History & Philosophy of Art lecturers and students. Pre-arranged visits, with a follow-up session on the respective artist and their work, are available to schools that wish to take advantage of the many exciting exhibitions we stage.

Playing up with Shakespeare (on campus)
This workshop for teachers is a collaboration between the School of Arts and the School of English. It unites schoolteachers, academics, performers and undergraduate students in a one-day fun and productive workshop on Shakespeare, performance and teaching. The workshop, usually held in June, covers practical and performance-based methods of exploring the text from different perspectives.

Music and Fine Art (on campus)
The School of Music and Fine Art at our Medway campus holds events offering students a chance to visit our impressive facilities at Chatham Historic Dockyard. The dockyard regeneration has provided unique teaching spaces and professional-standard workshops, studios, galleries and rehearsal and performance spaces. More unusually, the campus is also home to a naval destroyer, a submarine… and a Tardis!

Workshops designed to inspire creativity include casting and sculpting in our art studios, music composition and music technology. Students who are interested in creative events, design and production, can take part in workshops exploring the design of small- and large-scale events. Activities include storyboarding an event (this can include a drawing workshop), logistics, how to make it happen and exploring multimedia (sound and projections). There is also an opportunity for teachers and school students to meet academic staff and undergraduate students.

Other events include:
Academic staff from Drama, Film and History & Philosophy of Art are happy to visit schools to encourage students to consider studying for an arts degree and to highlight the exciting range of possibilities that exist for graduating students.

Creative Events (in school)
Kent runs the only undergraduate programme in the UK dedicated to producing skilled practitioners for the creative events industry. For those in school who are interested in this area of work we offer Creative Events seminars, which use brand and product analysis to consider, for example, how and what national events, such as the Olympic Opening Ceremony, communicate to an audience.

Biosciences

Bespoke events (on campus)
An extensive programme of outreach and campus-based activities, organised by the School of Biosciences, offers school classes an opportunity to visit the University for bespoke events, such as seeing a tunnelling electron microscope in action.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Dr Peter Donaldson is a historian who specialises in the cultural impact of the First World War.

‘Outreach work is a great opportunity for me to keep in touch with developments in the teaching of history in schools. I was a history teacher in a secondary school for 17 years, so it is fascinating to see the changes (and continuities) in the demands of the subject. It is also a chance to introduce pupils to how history is taught at university, how the skills they have acquired in GCSE and A level can be put to good use and tested even further. An added bonus is that it is always terrific fun!’

“It was a treat to learn so much about different cultures and languages. I really enjoyed the European quiz, but the modern Greek lesson was just as inspiring.”

Student participant
World Languages Day

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS (CONT)

STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Emily Saintas, from Brighton, is studying Cancer Biology at our Canterbury campus.

Why did you become a student ambassador?
I wanted to make a difference to young adults and encourage them to realise their abilities and ambitions.

What ambassador work have you been involved in?
I design teaching sessions, including science workshops based around cancer and DNA, using sweets and discussion to engage school students in the subject.

What do you enjoy the most in your role as an ambassador?
I enjoy passing on my positive energy and enthusiasm for science and academic learning in general.

What impact has your educational background prior to coming to university had on your role as an ambassador?
I had a very positive and motivational educational background, which I believe all children should have access to. As an ambassador, I hope I can encourage students to continue in education.

What career do you hope to follow when you graduate?
I hope to do a cancer research PhD and continue with my teaching and mentoring roles.

Pretty Little Monsters (on campus)
A microscopic journey into the world of insects and spiders.

How Clean is Your Classroom?
Stings and Things (both on campus)
Practical ‘hands-on’ experience of a scientific experiment to understand bacterial growth and pH values.

Presentations for sixth-formers (in school)
The fascinating world of biosciences is brought to life through presentations to sixth form students on topics including: the madness of King George III; Prions and the case for protein-based inheritance; Muscle contraction and molecular motors; and Infections: Is Domestos enough? For a full list of talks, please email outreach@kent.ac.uk

Business
Budding entrepreneurs are encouraged to find their business sense through workshops and group projects that can be run in school or on campus.

The Apprentice Meets Dragons’ Den (in school)
This gives students a chance to find out about effective product design and marketing using examples of globally successful companies such as Apple and Coca-Cola. Students work in small groups to develop a unique product and a marketing strategy. Competing against other groups, teams pitch their product to a panel of dragons for feedback. This is not for the faint-hearted!

Computer Science
Activities organised by the School of Computing encourage a creative approach to computer science.

FIRST LEGO League Competition (on campus)
Scientific challenges are set for children aged from nine to 16. Working as a team, they build, test and program an autonomous robot using LEGO Mindstorm® to solve missions and negotiate an obstacle course.

Robot Challenge Day (on campus)
Students program robots and research a specific science theme to present to a panel of judges. They gain a deeper understanding of science while competing in an exciting environment.

Engineering and Digital Arts
The School offers the Royal Academy of Engineering Workshops, in which professional engineers work with teams of high ability Year 12 students and their teachers for about six months on an engineering project.
Solar Car Challenge (on campus)
This innovative experience for students in Years 8 and 9 offers team-building and problem-solving skills, as well as the practical application of science and technology. This all-day event provides an insight into solar power and the world of design and engineering.

The Solar Car Challenge, developed in conjunction with science, ICT and maths teachers, is supported by STEMNET and run jointly with Canterbury Christ Church University, the local STEMNET hub. STEMNET aims to increase young people's choice and chances through science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Crime, Radio and Smart Buildings (on campus)
Sixth-form students with an interest in electronics may be inspired by this presentation, which shows how radio, from its earliest beginnings, has been used to avoid disaster as well as to fight – and commit – crime. Starting with Marconi's first radio shipping system in Kent, it considers the part radio played in the Titanic disaster, how the murderer Dr Crippen was apprehended and how modern prisons might be modified to prevent mobile phones being used to commit crimes. The subject is brought up to date by discussing some of the latest wireless research at the University of Kent.

English (in school)
Kent offers a broad curriculum, with courses ranging from Chaucer to the 21st century, and is internationally recognised for its creative work – writers within the department have been nominated for the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize for Fiction. Members of staff are happy to visit teachers and students to discuss studying English at university.

Extended Project Qualification support (in school)
This is designed to help students navigate around some of the potential pitfalls of the EPQ. Delivered by research-active staff, this focuses on the process of carrying out research. Areas covered include: choosing an appropriate research question; carrying out a literature review; designing an appropriate methodology; and presentation skills. Referencing skills are introduced and reinforced, and students have access to our library resources.

Learning takes place in small groups, with time set aside for one-to-one support for each student. Students are encouraged to write entries into their research log and, where possible, to show evidence of planning their ‘next steps’ in the research process.

History
History AS Revision Day (on campus)
Students are given valuable advice on how to make productive use of resources available to them, with sessions on study skills and a range of history topics. They meet undergraduates at our Canterbury campus who are studying history. Teachers meet students and academics from the School of History over lunch.

Humanities
Humanities Day (on campus)
The Faculty of Humanities runs this event on the Canterbury campus for students in Years 11 and 12. This is an opportunity to sample taster sessions in subjects including Architecture, Classical & Archaeological Studies, Film, Linguistics and Philosophy as well as the more traditional disciplines of History, English and Art History.

Members of academic staff from the Faculty of Humanities present a variety of generic humanity-focused talks to school students. Currently on offer are presentations that focus on the value of a humanities degree. ‘Why study humanities?’ and ‘Why study languages?’ are appropriate for students who might be considering their pathway and options in Years 11, 12 and 13.

Law
Studying Law at University (on campus)
This is a one-day conference for teachers and students, held in June. Students are introduced to the challenges and opportunities of a law degree programme through taster lectures and seminars, while a parallel informal Q&A session provides teachers with an opportunity to think about how they can best support these students in the classroom.

AMBASSADOR

Douglas Ssekyanzi, from London, is studying Pharmacy at our Medway campus.

What does being a student ambassador involve?
As a lead ambassador, I organise events on campus, ensuring they run smoothly. I take the role of a seminar leader, designing and delivering a talk to young people and parents on topics from UCAS application forms, writing a personal statement, student finance and my favourite, ‘Why go to university?’.

How has your role as an ambassador helped you in your studies at Kent?
It has made me a more rounded student; my organisation, interpersonal, time-management and communication skills have greatly improved.

What do you, as an ambassador, get out of the outreach work you do on behalf of the University?
As pharmacists, we are required to continually assess and improve our skills through continuing professional development. Going to different schools has helped me to develop as a person and has greatly improved my approach to helping students from a variety of backgrounds.

What career do you hope to follow when you graduate, and why?
I hope to work as a hospital pharmacist – in particular for paediatric patients.

For more information about the work of Kent’s student ambassadors, see p13.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
Dr Victoria Fitzgerald, a SEPnet* outreach officer, communicates science to school students and the general public through school workshops and activities, campus-based events, residential courses and forensic science weekends.

‘I think having a presence in local schools is very important. However, the events that don’t take place in a formal learning environment often have a bigger impact. For instance, our liquid nitrogen demonstrations at Lounge on the Farm at Merton Farm, Canterbury – a local music festival – planetarium sessions for Whitstable Library during its Space Hop Summer Reading Challenge, or our five-day photography workshop for The Prince’s Trust. In each of these events, the primary focus wasn’t necessarily on learning science, although it allowed people to develop other skills and become curious about the subject.

‘Some of the best outcomes of the School of Physical Sciences (SPS) extensive outreach programme is the effect it has on our student ambassadors. When demonstrating activities and acting as role models they develop a wide range of skills, enhance their CVs and gain confidence.’

*The University is part of the South East Physics Network (SEPnet), a consortium of seven world-class universities, whose aim is to change the face of physics by leading the way with high-quality research, teaching and outreach activities. Here, Dr Fitzgerald demonstrates Accelerator Physics, more details on p11.
INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS (CONT)

Library Visit Day (on campus)
For students in Year 13 working on their independent research project. This includes an introductory session on research sources and referencing, a Q&A session with an academic and an introduction to the extensive facilities including hard copy and digital material and history collections at the Templeman Library on the Canterbury campus.

Mathematics
Masterclasses for Key Stage 3 (on campus)
Students are encouraged to explore the application of mathematics in the real world through simple activities in a variety of hands-on workshops for pre-GCSE students.

Modern foreign languages
Kent has developed an exciting range of modern foreign language activities to encourage students to take a fresh view of learning a language.

Teacher refresher courses (on campus)
We are hoping to introduce refresher courses for teachers of French at our centre in Paris – if you would be interested in this, please email outreach@kent.ac.uk

Languages à la Carte (on campus/in school)
Students in Years 10 and 11 develop an interest in learning a language through taster sessions of lesser taught languages such as Arabic, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin and Russian.

World Languages Day (on campus)
This popular event, held on our Canterbury and Medway campuses, encourages students to consider studying languages at higher levels, and includes an opportunity to attend a theatre presentation in French or Spanish. Workshops on language themes include: introductions to Arabic, Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Mandarin, Russian and Welsh, through activities such as dance, puppetry, art and storytelling.

Sixth-form language conference (on campus)
A level students of French, German or Spanish can attend this Sixth Form Conference to broaden their linguistic and cultural understanding of their chosen language and give them a taste of what it is like to study languages at university.

Pharmacy
Workshops
Medway School of Pharmacy supports the Royal Society of Chemistry’s study days with a variety of workshops.

Chemistry at Work (on campus)
This event, for students in Years 9 and 10, includes talks on topics such as modern medicines and their plant origins.

Making Wise Choices (on campus)
This workshop, for primary school children, highlights the importance of handling medicines safely and promotes no-smoking campaigns.

Placements and bursaries (on campus)
For older students, the School of Pharmacy offers a limited number of one-day or one-week work placements and can support aspiring scientists in Year 12 through the Nuffield Science Bursary Scheme.

Other events include:
Medway School of Pharmacy visits schools to increase students’ understanding of careers in pharmacy and science. During National Science Week, staff and students visit schools, hold quizzes, a Junior Science Fair and workshops. Staff can also stage mock university interviews for Year 12 students.

Physical Sciences
Space School (on campus)
This event is for students from all over the UK, who spend the weekend on campus to explore life beyond Earth. Up to 45 students compete in space-based challenges, such as building a landing system for a mobile space laboratory, investigating impact craters and designing and developing a space colony.

Cool Physics (on campus/in school)
This demonstrates the amazing things that happen at minus196°C, by using liquid nitrogen, beach balls and ice cream made at top speed.

Accelerator Physics (on campus/in school)
This uses liquid nitrogen to show students how particle accelerators, such as the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, work, through electrical and magnetic demonstrations.

Astrodome (on campus/in school)
At the Astrodome, students learn about the universe from inside a mobile planetarium.

Forensic workshops (in school)
In this exciting event, students learn about forensic techniques and how they relate to real criminal cases.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Dr Iain MacKenzie, Senior Lecturer in Politics at the School of Politics and International Relations, also works with school students and teachers in our outreach activities.

‘Along with my colleagues, I have organised mini-conferences and workshops for A level students in politics and related subjects. These are a great way of introducing them to the way we teach, as well as giving them first-hand experience of the campus.

‘We have also been part of large social science events, such as Equilibrium (see right), that enable students to see the connections between different disciplines, especially when it comes to the analysis and evaluation of common themes such as equality, power and justice. But it’s not all about introducing school students to the idea of university, rather creating opportunities for Kent staff and students to stretch their own knowledge and skills by organising events that go beyond the usual lecture format.

‘The work we do with schools contributes directly to the enhancement of the university experience. In this spirit we established the Politics in the Classroom module, which places Kent students in secondary schools to help teachers deliver sessions in politics, citizenship and related subjects. School students can engage with active researchers in their discipline and university students find their knowledge and skills tested in ways that enrich their own understanding of the political world.’

Philosophy

Philosophy Day (on campus)
Students studying Philosophy at AS and A level meet undergraduates on our Canterbury campus and attend taster activities. Sessions are led by a member of Kent’s Philosophy department and relate to a topic studied at A level. Teachers meet up with academic staff during lunch.

Philosophy taster sessions (in school)
Academic staff are happy to give talks in schools to teachers and students, and run taster sessions about what studying philosophy at university involves. For more details email outreach@kent.ac.uk

Politics and International Relations

One-day conference (on campus)
This event is run by the School of Politics and International Relations and is particularly useful to students of British and American politics and political ideologies. It focuses on topical events, looking at some of the most pressing topics in contemporary political life. Students and teachers of history and sociology are also encouraged to attend.

Social Sciences

Equilibrium (on campus)
Using themes such as Representing Youth, and Ethics and Equality, this event shows how different disciplines can study a common area, highlighting crossovers between various subject areas. A keynote lecture is followed by a series of interactive seminar sessions. Students choose their path through the day, giving them a chance to find out more about a topic that interests them or to try something new.

Further information
For more details about the activities we offer, please email outreach@kent.ac.uk or call the Partnership Development Office, 01227 824149.

Science

Science Extravaganza (on campus)
This event, run by the Faculty of Sciences, provides a fascinating insight into the worlds of science and technology, with a chance to experience hands-on practical activities in professional-standard laboratories. Students in Years 8 and 9 spend a day on our Canterbury campus and take part in activities that include: a practical demonstration of forensic techniques related to real life criminal cases; how to write computer programs to make LEGO models follow ‘orders’, microelectronics – and how to solve mind-boggling puzzles.
We recruit undergraduate and postgraduate students from a wide range of backgrounds to represent the University in local schools and colleges.

Student ambassadors support activities throughout the University. Their commitment to this work, their passion for learning and their enthusiasm for their chosen subjects add energy and excitement to our activities, encouraging younger students to follow their example. Ambassadors receive thorough training, which not only instils confidence in them but also offers peace of mind to the schools and colleges with whom they work.

Benefits
Our ambassadors are a unique resource in inspiring and motivating secondary school and college students, increasing their aspiration to achieve a university education. They are currently studying at Kent, so ambassadors are able to provide up-to-date information from their own personal experience. They are ideal role models, demonstrating a realistic and attainable route into higher education and employment.

What do ambassadors do?
Ambassadors are involved in:
• leading workshops
• supporting campus events, taking charge of a small group of students

• assisting the development of new activities for schools
• talking to students about student life, academic subjects and courses
• delivering presentations on various aspects of higher education, from application to enrolment and beyond
• supporting students and staff at Open Days, Visit Days and Outreach events at Kent.

Postgraduate ambassadors
Our postgraduate ambassadors are a valuable source of advice to schools that have opted for our EPQ support sessions (see p9). They also lead aspiration and attainment-raising modules. While they are inspiring younger students with their enthusiasm for research, these ambassadors are gaining a vital breadth of experience, enhancing their chances of permanent employment.

Further information
Please contact the University of Kent Ambassador Scheme. Email ambassadors@kent.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)1227 824 149
www.kent.ac.uk/ambassador

“The ambassadors were enthusiastic, made students feel at ease and were highly skilled communicators.”

Schoolteacher
On student ambassadors

Oyinkansola Honey Sanusi, from London, is studying Social Policy.

What is the best thing about being an ambassador?
When a student I have worked with says, ‘Thank you, you’ve really helped me… I am going to get more involved at school, or… I am going to apply for university’.

What ambassador work have you been involved in?
I have been involved in campus tours and presentations about student life. I have also tutored sessions known as Stepping Up modules (see p16), to prepare students for university. I also mentor students who stay on campus for a night – it’s not just enjoyable for them, I enjoy myself too! I also work with much younger students to help improve their literacy using magic and poetry themes.

What do you enjoy most in your role as an ambassador?
Working with students, as a summer school mentor, I could see they left more confident, enlightened young people.

How do you think this experience might help you in the workplace?
I have learnt how to work well under pressure, reach targets and work with different types of people. The experiences I have had as a student ambassador are invaluable, as I have really been outside of my comfort zone and this is what I will have to do once I am in the workplace.
As lead sponsor of Brompton Academy in Gillingham, the University plays a vital role in securing the Academy’s place at the cutting edge of pedagogy. The Academy’s specialisms, Science and the Arts, are supported by the expertise established by Kent. Our input is integral to the daily life of the Academy, as staff and students from both institutions work together to develop inspirational, innovative education.
# Partner Schools’ Curriculum

The Partner School Scheme is at the heart of our work with schools. We have developed a wide range of activities to give students in our partner schools a better understanding of the benefits of higher education.

### Who are our partner schools?

The University has established formal relationships with 40 non-selective secondary schools in Kent. This includes members of the Kent and Medway Progression Federation (KMPF), formed in 2011 to continue the work of Aimhigher Kent and Medway.

### KMPF Schools

- The Abbey School
- Astor College for the Arts
- Brockhill Park Performing Arts College
- Brompton Academy
- The Canterbury High School
- Castle Community College
- The Charles Dickens School
- Chaucer Technology School
- The Community College Whitstable
- Cornwallis Academy
- East Kent College
- Marlowe Academy
- Oasis Academy Hextable
- Pent Valley Technology College
- St Anselm’s Catholic School
- St John Fisher Catholic School
- The Thomas Aveling School
- The Ebbsfleet Academy
- Folkestone Academy
- Greenacre Academy
- Hartscroft Academy
- Herne Bay High School
- Hillview School for Girls
- Hugh Christie Technology College
- The Isle of Sheppey Academy
- King Ethelbert School
- Longfield Academy
- Malling Holmesdale Federation
- Mapledsen Noakes School
- Marlowe Academy
- The Marsh Academy
- New Line Learning Academy
- Northfleet School for Girls
- Northfleet Technology College
- The North School
- Oasis Academy Hextable
- Pent Valley Technology College
- The Robert Napier School
- Sandwich Technology School
- Saint George’s Church of England School
- St Anselm’s Catholic School
- St Augustine Academy
- Sittingbourne Community College
- Spires Academy
- Strood Academy
- The Towers School
- Ursuline College
- Wilmington Academy

### Subject and Activities

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**PARTNER SCHOOLS’ CURRICULUM (CONT)**

What we do

The Partner School Curriculum

This introduces students at our partner schools to the challenges and opportunities of university education through a range of stimulating sessions delivered in school and on campus. Working with our student ambassadors gives school students of all ages an opportunity to work alongside undergraduates who are powerful, yet accessible, role models.

We realise that, for many school students, making decisions about their educational future can be daunting. Staff and students from the University can help, not only by working with pupils but also refreshing the knowledge of their parents and teachers with regard to what higher education has to offer.

Benefits of higher education

Interactive sessions on the benefits of higher education and the application process help parents and teachers advise young people more effectively. The result is not only an increase in the number of UCAS applications but also a feeling throughout the school that progression to university is a natural step up from the sixth form.

What follows is an indication of the kinds of activities that we offer exclusively to our partner schools. This is not an exhaustive or definitive list. We know that schools differ, and we can be flexible in relation to what we deliver. Most of our activities can be adapted to suit different year groups, locations and patterns of delivery. Talks can stand alone or be combined as part of a series. We are also interested in new developments that encourage students to look beyond the national curriculum. If you would like to explore a more flexible approach to what is on offer, do please get in touch: outreach@kent.ac.uk

**Partner Scholarships**

Students from our partner schools and colleges are eligible to apply for a Partner Scholarship. Each year two students from each partner school and three students from each partner college will be awarded £1,000 for each year of full-time study at Kent. For more details see www.kent.ac.uk/secondary/partner/scholarships.html

**Ambassador Scholarships**

Partner Scholarship applicants who have an interest in becoming involved in outreach work may also apply for an Ambassador Scholarship of £1,000 for each year of full-time study at Kent. For more details see www.kent.ac.uk/secondary/partner/scholarships.html

“A brilliant two days… fantastic… we loved it!”

School students

On Debating activities

**Progression modules**

**Your Future, Your Choice**

*For Years 8-11 (in school)*

This group of four, one-hour sessions encourages students in Years 8, 9, 10 or 11 to consider what they want from adult life and how they might achieve it. Using an exciting range of materials, trained student ambassadors work with small groups to encourage a practical, pro-active approach when choosing GCSE and post-16 options. Students are encouraged to research the job market as well as further and higher education, enabling them to make informed choices.

**Stepping Up**

*For Years 12-13 (in school)*

This programme of modules is designed to help students in Years 12 and 13 decide if university is for them, to introduce them to the skills they will need when progressing to university and to help them to apply. Delivered by specially selected and trained postgraduate students, with the support of undergraduate student ambassadors, Stepping Up offers sixth-formers the opportunity to get help and advice from young people who can relate to them because they have been recently in their shoes. The programme is divided into three modules, each delivered in weekly one-hour sessions.

**Stepping Up 1: Is University Right for Me? (in school)**

This series of interactive sessions is designed to help students in Year 12 make decisions about their next steps after school.

**Stepping Up 2: Applying to University (in school)**

Delivered at the end of Year 12 and the beginning of Year 13, this module helps students to choose courses and universities that suit them through practical, workshop sessions based on the UCAS application process.

In Year 13, students who have submitted a UCAS application can prepare themselves for higher education by taking the Stepping Up 3 module.

**Stepping Up 3: The University Tool Box (in school)**

This module covers study skills such as learning from lectures and note taking from reading. The module introduces students to effective techniques that can help them survive that crucial first term. The module also includes a visit to campus, where students undertake research in the University library, along with sessions such as Home or Away? and Results Day and Beyond, to help with the tricky decisions applicants to university have to make.

**Shadowing Scheme (on campus)**

Our Shadowing Scheme is open to partner school students, who are invited to spend two days on our Canterbury or Medway campus, shadowing a Kent student to lectures, seminars and study sessions.

**Debating (on campus/in school)**

The Kent Debating Society has teamed up with the University’s outreach specialists to develop engaging and exciting debating activities for partner schools, on campus and in school, as a one-off visit or as ongoing support to help students set up and run their own debating society.
Library visits (on campus)
The University welcomes visits by partner school students to our libraries on our Canterbury and Medway campuses. Visits include a library tour, instruction in how to use an academic library and time to undertake research. This is especially useful for sixth-formers, who have access to a limited range of texts in their chosen subject or who would like to be well-prepared for undergraduate study. To arrange a visit, please contact outreach@kent.ac.uk

For teachers
Introduction to the Partner School Scheme (in school)
This informal presentation raises the level of awareness of partner school status. Talks can be focused on teachers and/or support staff and include information on the Partner School Scheme, the curriculum on offer and information about partner scholarships. After the presentation, school staff are invited to discuss the types of activity available with a relevant subject specialist from the University.

Supporting students through the UCAS process (in school)
This is a session for teachers working with university applicants to help them in their role as HE advisers. Sessions can be designed to suit the needs of the group and can cover topics such as HE subjects and qualifications; entry requirements; student finance; the UCAS application and the University admissions process.

UCAS reference-writing workshop (in school)
Sixth-form teachers may also benefit from this workshop. We consider the purpose of the reference, the advice given by UCAS, and the expectations of university admissions officers. If everyone feels brave enough, we offer a practical element to the session involving writing and discussing references for fictional students. This is especially helpful to heads of sixth form who would like their subject teachers trained in the art of producing a ‘UCAS-ready paragraph’.

For parents
The HE Maze (in school)
This guide for families provides a friendly introduction to higher education for parents, carers and students within the familiar environment of their child’s school. During the first interactive session, the language and historical eccentricities of higher education are explored, before the choice and application processes are discussed. The second session focuses on the cost of higher education and what financial support is available.

Parents’ evenings (in school)
University staff and student ambassadors can attend to talk informally to parents and students or to deliver a more formal presentation on a topic such as student finance, the UCAS process, student life or a more general outline of the benefits of being a partner school of the University of Kent. These talks can raise the profile of the school’s partnership with the University, raise aspiration during the options process in Year 9, and provide parents across all year groups with up-to-date information about higher education.

Subject-specific talks and workshops
Humanities
This exciting range of activities uses drama, music, storytelling and comedy to bring the study of humanitie}s to life. We encourage young people to use their own experiences of history and language to explore the lives and languages of others.

Drama
Workshops
We can arrange workshops focusing on movement, devising and theatre history to enhance and enrich the drama curriculum.

Playing with Puppets (on campus/in school)
This workshop introduces skills of manipulation and puppetry with a view to developing a short scenario devised by the participants.

Stand-up Comedy (on campus/in school)
This is available as a taster session for all students, irrespective of whether they study drama or not. This workshop introduces some of the skills utilised by stand-up comedians and offers participants opportunities to analyse aspects of character, presence, and ways in which these skills might be adopted and adapted as strategies for confidence building, presenting and writing.

English
Local Legends (in school)
This storytelling project is a unique opportunity for students to engage in the process of developing narrative and, ultimately, a performance of the work they have created. Workshops introducing students to the different methods of developing a story and the skills required to turn this into a short performance take place in the school environment.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

When I began working at the University’s Partnership Development Office in 2004 our work with local schools had just begun to grow. I was employed to develop a curriculum to encourage students in our partner schools to consider going on to university. In the 10 years before this I taught English in further education colleges to students on a range of programmes, including Access to HE. Many of my students were, like me, the first in their families to consider going to university so I was able to make use of this experience to design the Stepping Up programme (see p16).

‘Since then, our partner schools’ curriculum has grown enormously, including events and activities from across the University, and Stepping Up is now delivered to more than 1,000 students each year.

‘I work with a dynamic team of outreach specialists who come from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds. Some of us have years of experience while others are recent graduates who were also student ambassadors. What connects us, though, is a belief in the value of our work and a desire to share our passion for learning. I have learnt so much since I started this job, from my colleagues and from the students that I have worked with. We’re never standing still.’

Donna Coyne
Progression Curriculum Manager
PARTNER SCHOOLS’ CURRICULUM (CONT)

Creative Writing (on campus/in school)
Creative Writing workshops introduce students to a number of key ideas and strategies for writing poetry and prose. The sessions offer an opportunity for participants to experiment in a variety of techniques to discover their own creative potential and develop their writing skills.

Film (on campus/in school)
There are opportunities for schools to take advantage of short introductory seminar sessions. These taster sessions draw on a range of genres, and might include such topics as exploring the Gothic in film. Participants look at a number of extracts and have an opportunity to interrogate and analyse them.

History
Taster sessions (on campus/in school)
Taster sessions are available in a range of topics, with a close synergy to the GCSE curriculum, and serve to either introduce forthcoming topics to be studied or contribute to revision activities. These tasters might include, for example, sessions on Hollywood and the American West or Children’s literature during the Second World War. Students are introduced to different sources comprising film, comics, children’s literature and illustrations. Using these sources the students are invited to contribute to a discussion drawing on their own knowledge and understanding.

Modern foreign languages
The learning of modern foreign languages has always offered its own set of challenges and opportunities for schools. With these in mind, we have developed a range of activities to help teachers to enthuse and prepare their students for language learning at higher levels.

Language ambassadors (in school)
Our ambassadors can support the teaching of French, Spanish, Italian and German by helping with speaking and writing activities in the classroom.

Language and music workshops (in school)
These workshops, held in French and Spanish, use contemporary music videos and lyrics to develop the listening and cultural awareness skills of students in Years 9 or 10. Students watch videos and do exercises including filling in gaps, rearranging lines and verses, and identifying key words.

Language with Puppets (on campus/in school)
Speaking in a foreign language can be daunting for students, so this workshop shows them how to get their puppet to do the talking. This session is available to language students who, drawing on their own knowledge of a foreign language, develop a short script for the puppet performance.

Why study languages? (in school)
This assembly presentation is delivered by language student ambassadors who talk about their experiences and enjoyment of learning languages. Other topics covered often include the year abroad, career implications, and choice of subject combinations available at university. This is particularly beneficial to students who are in the process of choosing GCSE or A level options.

Watch your language (in school)
This is an annual film competition, which runs during the autumn term. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are asked to produce a five-minute film, including at least one minute of foreign language material that promotes language learning.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2011/12 the University worked with more than 11,000 partner school students.
Sciences
Our imaginative, hands-on activities have breathed new life into the science curriculum for hundreds of partner school students. Participants are encouraged to use the science they learn at school to understand how scientists work in the real world. Through experiments and interactive workshops, we show students how scientific knowledge can be applied in the pursuit of greater understanding and innovation.

Biosciences
DNA fingerprinting (on campus/in school)
An opportunity to get ‘hands-on’ experience of a DNA fingerprinting workshop is offered by the School of Biosciences. This involves the cutting of DNA samples, the use of electrophoresis and the analysis and comparison of bands of DNA. Students also learn how this technique is used in forensic investigation to solve crime.

Engineering and Digital Arts
Dramatic role-play and team-based activities motivate and inspire students in activities including:
- Spectra (on campus)
  A code-cracking scenario where teams use infrared cameras, radio-controlled cars and optical fibres to transmit a code, and ultra violet light to locate hidden instructions.
- Totally Ballistic (on campus)
  This competition, based on effective teamwork, encourages students to work together to accurately hit a target. An electronics team creates a rocket launcher, a software team programmes the launch operator’s microprocessor, a ballistics team uses their knowledge of mathematics to calculate ballistic trajectories, and ‘journalists’ record and edit the day’s events.

Mathematics
Teaming up with staff in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science, our outreach specialists have developed sessions that encourage a fascination for mathematics through practical application and exciting games of skill and competition.

Margherita Maths (on campus/in school)
This show how curriculum maths is relevant to the outside world. Teams invent and develop ideas, including a financial model for a restaurant with a unique selling point. Sessions covering nets/shapes, fractions, long multiplication, degrees in shapes, algebra, percentages, areas, simple simultaneous equations, probability and graph work culminate in a Dragons’ Den-style scenario where students make their pitch.

Sport and Exercise Sciences (on campus/in school)
The University works with students on and off campus to encourage an understanding of the importance of scientific knowledge of sport. Staff and undergraduates deliver talks on topics ranging from nutrition to psychology and sport. They also hold workshops in their fitness suite, tailored to the needs of students. Partner schools develop bespoke sport and exercise science projects by joining forces with second- and third-year undergraduates.

Fibre Frenzy (on campus/in school)
This is an opportunity to understand how today’s communication systems work, using fibre optics, involving a competition to crack codes using fibre optics and light.

The 3D World of Computer Animation (on campus)
Students model a low-polygon hover-vehicle and animate a robot ‘Mechanoid’ character as featured in many blockbuster sci-fi films. This 90-minute workshop gives students a glimpse of the Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) industry and a chance to produce their own animation.

FROM STUDENT TO ONE OF THE TEAM

Jack Fox, from Dartford, studied Biomedical Science at Kent and is studying for an MSc in Science, Communication and Society. He now works in our Partnership Development Office.

Why did you become a student ambassador?
I attended a partner school and had a lot of support from Kent students; it seemed like a great opportunity to give something back and help other students.

What is the best thing about being an ambassador?
Definitely the vast variety of work opportunities available. The work at times can be challenging but it is extremely rewarding.

What impact has your educational background had on your role as an ambassador?
At secondary school many of my friends did not consider higher education as an option. Having been to university and seen the opportunities that are available, I draw on my own experience to ensure all students we work with are aware of how accessible HE can be.

How do you think this experience might help you in the workplace?
Working as an ambassador has developed a wide range of skills. I was really fortunate to enter full-time employment at the University before graduating. I have the Student Ambassador Scheme to thank for that.

“Our students have thoroughly enjoyed your events and have come back with loads of ideas, which they have shared enthusiastically with their peers.”

Schoolteacher
On science activity
PARTNER SCHOOLS’ CURRICULUM (CONT)

Social Sciences
Our social science activities support the formal school curriculum and students’ understanding of their local and global environment. Exciting and interactive sessions, delivered in school and on campus, help students to connect formal learning with real experience, encouraging an understanding of the relevance of social science to their own lives.

Transitions
Transitions is an in-depth project for selected Year 7 students, which encourages them to reflect upon the experience of moving to secondary school by exploring their new school environment. Working in groups, they play the role of researchers to discover how other Year 7 students experienced the transition to secondary school and how the school environment could be improved to help new students adjust.

Debating: Citizen’s Jury (on campus/in school)
This is a lively debate on a topical subject. Students are encouraged to see the topic from a number of viewpoints. PhD students outline the main points of the debate from a range of perspectives. Students join in a structured debate, with the challenge to reach a consensus, and are encouraged to use their powers of persuasion to convince their peers. This two-hour activity, offered by The School of Politics and International Relations, can be adapted for any age group.

Interactive Social Science talks (on campus/in school)
We offer talks on a wide range of topics developed exclusively for partner schools by PhD students and outreach specialists. Students re-evaluate the world around them and see commonplace dilemmas from a fresh perspective.

Topics include: When do people help? (Psychology); Race, Youth and Crime in London Riots (Sociology); Corporate and Social Responsibility (Business); Plants that Shape our World (Conservation and Ethnobotany); Foucault, Freedom and the Government (Politics).

Anthropology (on campus/in school)
A session called Changes looks at developments in material cultural change and how wider cultural change can be charted through the evolution of everyday, human-made objects, such as the mobile phone.

Psychology
Students as researchers (on campus/in school)
This day-long event, organised by the School of Psychology, introduces sixth-form students to the realities and potential pitfalls, as well as the excitement, of research in psychology. University staff explain their current research and encourage students to embark on creating their own research proposal. At the end of the day, students present their proposals to academics for feedback.

Taster sessions (on campus/in school)
The School of Psychology also offers one-hour tasters, delivered by teaching staff. These sessions cover the various perspectives that students would encounter at GCSE and A level through engaging titles such as The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and The Psychology of Nintendo Brain Training.

Sociology
Students as researchers (on campus/in school)
This event, offered by The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) on either our Canterbury or Medway campus, supports students who are studying A level or Access Sociology. It also develops their understanding of research methods within sociology.

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Working with research-active staff, students are introduced to a variety of innovative approaches to research, set within fascinating areas of study (topics have included state terrorism, social media and prostitution). They work in groups to develop a research proposal on a particular theme, before presenting it to academics for feedback. This provides an insight into research methods in the real world and deepens understanding of the different approaches to research.

Further information
Please email outreach@kent.ac.uk

“An excellent opportunity for our students to take part in practical work with equipment and facilities unavailable at school. They are able to use the information in their portfolio work for A level. Students gained confidence from working with postgraduate students and meeting a professor.”

Schoolteacher
On DNA fingerprinting
The University works closely with its partner further education colleges, Canterbury College, K College and MidKent College, to raise aspiration and encourage progression to higher education.

Students studying in FE colleges have different needs and expectations to those studying in school sixth forms, so Kent tailors activities and support accordingly.

The University works with groups studying for A levels, BTEC, vocational qualifications and Access to HE programmes, and with college staff. Activities are supported by student ambassadors, many of whom have direct FE experience and who are trained to understand the particular needs of college students. Activities include:

**Talks and workshops**
We give talks and workshops on topics such as:
- student finance
- personal statements
- the UCAS process and choosing HE courses
- UCAS reference writing for college staff

We also offer subject-based workshops to FE students which can be held in college. In particular, FE students have enjoyed sessions in:
- business
- science
- performing arts.

Additional sessions can be tailored to students' specific needs.

**Events**
Partner College students are welcome to attend any events on campus for students in Years 12 and 13. For details, see p6-12.

**A Level Days**
The University runs A Level Days aimed specifically at FE students, giving them a chance to take part in a range of subject tasters, a sample lecture and a campus tour.

**Shadowing Scheme**
Our Shadowing Scheme is open to partner college students, who are invited to spend two days on either our Canterbury or Medway campus, shadowing a Kent student to lectures, seminars and study sessions.

**FE Residential**
Each year students from our partner colleges are invited to a two-day residential course at our Canterbury campus to experience what studying at university is like. Staying overnight in University accommodation, this gives participants an opportunity to sample lectures and workshops, to meet and work with current undergraduates and join in the social and recreational activities available at a vibrant university such as Kent.

**Scholarships**
Students from partner FE colleges are eligible to apply for Partner and Ambassador Scholarships. For details see p16.

**Access**
The University offers specific activities to partner college students from Access to HE programmes. These include talks and activities and annual visits to our Canterbury and Medway campuses, to help Access students choose suitable degree courses and understand the application procedure. Events are supported by student ambassadors, many of whom have come to the University through an Access programme.

**Higher education in partner colleges**
The University validates a number of higher education programmes which are delivered in our partner colleges. These include higher national certificates and diplomas, and foundation degrees, providing an excellent progression route for students who wish to study for a university qualification in a highly supportive environment.
ADULT AND FAMILY LEARNING

The University works with a wide range of age groups, inspiring people to try out new subjects and build confidence, to enjoy learning in informal situations such as primary and secondary schools, and the children’s centres attached to them.

We work on a biannual programme with our partners, offering bespoke courses for specific groups of learners, following consultation with community liaison teams, school heads and teachers. Our focus is on communities that are currently under-represented in higher education. We work closely with other agencies and institutions to develop a meaningful contribution to these communities.

In secondary schools
Courses are intended for parents, carers, school staff and the local community. We also offer family learning courses at schools for parents and carers who want to support their children in their studies.

Taster courses
A range of taster courses in subjects such as creative writing, social sciences and art can lead to our certificated Access to Higher Education Diploma.

Access to Higher Education Diploma
As part of Kent’s sponsorship of Brompton Academy, we have launched an Access to Higher Education Diploma programme at the school during the evenings. Originally intended for the parents of students at the school, it is now run for learners throughout the local community, enabling them to acquire the necessary qualifications and skills for university entrance.

This runs as a two year, part-time course and students can choose between modules in Human Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Creating Writing, English Literature and Art and Design. They have the opportunity to gain skills in research, essay-writing and presentations, and can also gain a Maths GCSE. For information please visit www.kent.ac.uk/courses/part-time/access or email outreach@kent.ac.uk

Learning Together
This is a course of four informal, engaging and inclusive sessions showing parents and carers how they might support their children with their studies.

Family Day Schools and Workshops
These provide a series of bespoke options for parents and carers to take part in alongside their children. Events include:

Family Robot Challenge Day
Based on FIRST LEGO League, participants learn to build a robot using LEGO pieces and create a computer program to get it to perform tasks for them. As the day links to topic work on sustainability, they utilise their creative thinking skills to research climate change and work as a team to deliver a presentation on the subject.

Parents’ workshops for new Year 7s
This is a transition event held in the spring before new pupils start school. Parents and carers are invited to a series of sessions which offer suggestions for supporting their children’s study. A campus visit, with a series of exciting and engaging activities for the children, is intended to promote enjoyment of new subjects and raise aspirations.

In primary schools
We have close links with selected schools in the Medway and Gravesend areas. Our work with primary school children builds on literacy, maths and science through a variety of exciting large-scale events and smaller group mentoring work. Our outreach specialists work closely with the University’s academic schools, utilising the knowledge of lecturers to inform this work. Parents’ involvement may also lead to their participation in courses as learners in their own right.

For parents
We offer a variety of courses, including Swings and Roundabouts, which enable participants to find out more about how health, nutrition and other factors such as friendships, or their wider environment, can affect mood: their own, and that of their children.

For pupils in Year 6
Poetry Circus
This is an opportunity for children to enjoy creating poems and playing with words for their own sake. A variety of games and activities, led by the children themselves, culminates in a performance to which parents and teachers are invited.
Science Days
These introduce children to the wonders of the universe with a visit to our portable astrodome. They can explore the wonders of perspective and light using photography or learn how to build a rocket.

Social Science Days
Children use techniques employed by psychologists to collect and make sense of information from surveys, to explore the feelings of Year 6 children about to make the transition to secondary school.

At children’s centres
Courses for parents and carers are run at the children’s centres attached to, or near, primary schools, and usually take place with a free creche, but may involve family learning situations where parents and carers learn alongside their children. Subjects are engaging and relevant, and focus on child-based topics.

Following consultation with centres, we offer courses that appeal to their clients, such as:

My Story
This is a family learning course that allows parents or carers to get messy along with their children and make a scrapbook of their child’s favourite things. Photos, memories, toys and first steps can all be included – participants are encouraged to be as creative and colourful as they like, to produce a precious keepsake.

Children’s Stories, Language and Learning
This provides an opportunity to find out more about the way children interact with books and stories. Including lots of practical activity and discussions, sessions are informative and fun with the chance to experiment. Participants discuss children’s books, learn how to write stories and poems for children, explore the way children acquire language and the way they learn. An eight-week follow-on course about fairytales and storytelling looks in more detail at the way children learn language and remember information.

Recharge
This enables learners to discuss families and relationships, to consider ways to communicate effectively and de-stress. We also explore the role of stories in our modern society, including the way they create and control the roles we try to fulfil in our everyday lives.

Storytelling
Designed for people working or volunteering with children, or for parents interested in volunteering at school, this provides an introduction to the skills required to write or tell a good story. Participants learn how stories can be used as a wonderful learning tool for children and adults.

Further information
For more information about any of the activities in this brochure, please contact outreach@kent.ac.uk

STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Eleanor Smeeton, from Manchester, is studying English and American Literature.

What was your experience of getting to university?
I did okay at GCSEs but A levels were a different story. I lost focus. Nobody in my family has a degree, my parents don’t put much weight on education, they’re self-made people with a working-class background. I didn’t know what I wanted to do, so I was kind of left by the wayside. That’s why I enjoy being a student ambassador – I can help students who feel the way I did.

Why did you become a student ambassador?
I wanted to put my own experience to good use. As a mature student, I feel that I have a lot of life experience to offer. I didn’t come into university by the usual route – I had initially applied to various universities but didn’t get in because of my grades. Kent was the only university that offered me an Access course.

What ambassador work have you been involved in?
I really enjoyed being part of the Summer Core Team, held over three weeks on campus and in schools. It was hard work but rewarding. We had an overnight stay in Rutherford College and looked after five to seven students each, which was great fun.

What is the best thing about being an ambassador?
As role models, we encourage students to believe in themselves.
Terms and conditions: the University reserves the right to make variations to the content and delivery of courses and other services, or to discontinue courses and other services, if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary. If the University discontinues any course, it will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative. To register for a programme of study, all students must agree to abide by the University Regulations (available online at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations).

Data protection: for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons, the University needs to process information about its students. Full registration as a student of the University is subject to your consent to process such information.