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Building Futures and Empowering Learners: UEL's Approach to Pre-16 Outreach





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How we work in Pre- 16

Partnerships with Pre-16 schools: A multi-intervention approach



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- **22 partner secondary schools**
- Partner secondary schools are committed to:
 - Three interventions per year
 - Across Years 10-11
 - Signed Service Level Agreement
 - Meet our engagement criteria,
 - above avg FSM, EAL, below avg Progress 8 etc
- Alignment with post 16.
- TASO (Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in Higher education) has shown that multi-intervention outreach has a positive impact in terms of aspirations and attitudes: <https://taso.org.uk/evidence/toolkit/>.



Our partners



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**Internal Support Services –
Careers, SMART, DDT**

**Student Ambassadors –
Outreach & Curriculum**

Charities - ELBA

**Third Party Organisations –
Physiological Society**

Schools

Academics

Parents




**UniConnects – Make
Happen/AccessHE**

Pre-16 Menu of Activities



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	Description	Gatsby benchmarks	Suitable for	Location
	Career fairs, parents evenings and other events UEL can support career fairs, parents evenings and other school events such as running sessions during school drop down days. Please discuss your requirements with your contact Lead Partnership Officer.	7	Year 10 and 11	School
	Awareness raising assemblies Mythbusting Higher Education - Bespoke offer The Higher Education Mythbuster is an opportunity learn more about university, including the terminology used and how learning takes place. This assembly takes place in quiz format and is therefore highly interactive and offers information in a bite sized way. Other assemblies are available on request. Assemblies are flexible and can be as short as 20 mins, and as long as 45 minutes.	7	Year 10 and 11	School
	Parent sessions These sessions are focused on parents who would like to know more about university and how to support their children in their studies. This can be used as a supplementary talk in a parents' evening or other school event. Sessions can be 20 to up to 45 minutes.	7	Parents	School

Level of knowledge key



Awareness Raising Activities
outreach to support existing education career activities for young people



Skills and Knowledge
sessions to support employability skills, to experience higher education and support progression through school, college and into university



Attainment Programmes
for high priority partners, sustained engagement programmes, with a service level agreement to deliver a package of activities supporting school wide attainment and progression targets



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Table Activity: Enhancing Partnership Working

How do you approach partnership working with key partners and why is this important?

Key areas to consider:

- Do's & Dont's of Partnership Working – What best practices should be followed and what pitfalls should be avoided?
- Challenges & Solutions – What common obstacles arise in partnership working and how can they be effectively addressed?
- How do you build trust – What strategies help to establish and maintain trust with partners?
- Defining Success – What does a strong and successful partnership look like to you?
- Improving Relationships – What actions can you take to strengthen partnerships with your allocated partner?

You have 10 minutes to discuss these points in your group before we feed back.

Top Tips for Partnership Working



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Collaboration is key

Manage expectations

Give & take

Some form of Flexibility

In person communications

Future planning

Feedback

Be personable

Phenomenal Physiology: A Case Study



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- The Phenomenal Physiology Project, a flagship initiative of the University of East London (UEL) supported by the Physiological Society. It has been a driving force in inspiring and educating students from under-represented groups since its inception in 2017.
- It is a six-week programme targeting Year 10 students to participate in hands-on science-based workshops led by trained university student ambassadors and exposure to professional level equipment. In 2024, 43 students took part from two schools.
- These sessions held during lessons or after school, aim to ignite interest in higher education and science degrees.
- The programme concludes with students presenting their experiment findings to a panel of academics, fostering confidence and empowering diverse young learners to pursue academic and professional success in science.
- The project is designed and run in collaboration with UELs outreach team, UELs Medical Physiology Team (Academics and current students), The Physiological Society as well as participation from our partner external schools

In 2024, Phenomenal Physiology met these
Widening Participation criteria targets

67.4%

of students
identified as being
from an **ethnic
background**

51.2%

of students came
from **IMD Quintiles
1&2**

53.4%

of students
identified as being
female

23.3%

of students declared
to be **First
Generation HE
students**

43.3%

of students
declared to be on
**Free School
Meals**

9.3%

of students declared
to be children from a
Military Background



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What UEL Academics said

“Phenomenal Physiology is an inspirational and successful programme with schools and UEL, where students learn Physiology techniques, communicate science and raise aspirations for university study and careers beyond”

Dr. Mohammed Meah, Course Leader Medical Physiology & Human Biology

What the teachers said

“I was really impressed, my main thing was that the kids enjoyed it, the kids loved it yesterday [at the conference], they were talking about physiology all the way home. I think even with their presentations, getting best presenters for that poster... the enthusiasm the kids had in terms in presenting the work they had done, it made me smile as a teacher and reflects the work that the course helped them with in terms of developing skills. But overall, just seeing that makes it worthwhile anyway so really impressed, surpassed my expectations, and the kids enjoyed it”.

Academy Chobham, Director of Learning



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What the Ambassadors said

“Being a curriculum ambassador reignited my childhood passion for science! It's incredibly rewarding to share this gift with others. Leading workshops and creating engaging posters with students has been an absolute blast and a fantastic addition to my skillset.”

"I have helped with Phenomenal Physiology for many years, and every year I love seeing the students learn and grow. Watching them present at the conference at the end is such a rewarding moment. The project has provided me with valuable teaching experience, built my confidence and let me share my passion for science"

What the Students said

“It has made me think about university in the future as it seems like I would enjoy it”.

“I really enjoyed the programme being able to use the equipment but also meet the ambassadors. Although presenting was scary, I am glad I did it as it was a great experience”.

“I like science anyway, but this has made me think that I could study something science related at uni and really enjoy it”.



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Why do we do what we do?

"Our partnership with the University of East London has opened doors of opportunity for our students—through inspiring assembly talks, hands-on science programmes like Phenomenal Physiology, and engaging parents evening workshops, UEL continues to support and empower our school community. Together, we are helping to raise aspirations and build brighter futures."

David Norris, Assistant Headteacher, Hornchurch High School