Developing Subject Specific Workshops

Friday, Workshop 4

Chair: Shanade Johnson

Reporter: Ben Copsey

Presenters:

Sarah Addison, University of Leicester

David Hollis, University of Loughborough

Group task:

Share where your institution provides subject specific outreach, looking at Year groups, Challenges and Successes.

Common challenges: Academic buy-in, accessibility to schools (on campus or in-school approach), confidence to deliver subject specific outreach outside of areas of expertise.

Making delivery sustainable: time investment, training and CPD, age appropriate, flexible and incorporated into wider IAG programmes.

Sarah Addison:

Leicester runs “Access to the Professions” in Law, Medicine, Journalism and Engineering.

Wide programme from Primary to Post-16, including in-school visits, taster days on campus and progression programmes.

Significant buy-in from institution: students, dedicated member of outreach staff, academics – allows for wide and flexible programme of activities

Challenges exist around student buy in and skills development; as a pathways programme there is no one size fits all solution, activities and skills are dependent on subject. Student buy-in variable, Medical school engagement particularly high.

Excellent pick up from students – 6172 participated in some aspect of the programme, with 11 going on to medicine with foundation year.

David Hollis:

Loughborough faced common challenges and issues with regard to Subject Specific outreach – Subject in a Box is a distance outreach programme aimed at addressing challenges (see group work section).

Academics create subject ideas – outreach team organises and codifies into box – boxes sent to schools – schools deliver - careers resources embedded/enabled

In-school engagement, sustainable at low cost to University. National reach with very high return on investment, average of £50 box restock cost (variable depending on subject)

Production of a menu of curated curriculum linked activities has allowed for successful distance engagement.

Boxed subjects provide resources, guides, lesson plan and clear requirements for rooms, time, participant ages, numbers and knowledge.

4,000 students worked with subject in a box January 2018.

Further developments in Pathways Webpages – increased tie to recruitment and Loughborough specific material including VR tours. Developed under NCOP, offers student and teacher resources.