

'Be. the Best'



Gifted and Talented Programme for County Students

Aimhigher working in partnership with The University of Northampton

'Be. the Best' is an exciting project that Aimhigher Northamptonshire, who are working in collaboration with The University of Northampton, are pleased to say has got off to a great start in its second year. Having successfully secured funding from The East Midlands Excellence Hub at Nottingham University again, almost 90 students have already benefitted from the programme. The initiative is aimed at local gifted and talented students in year 10 and 11.

Popular Workshops

The programme was launched in January with entertaining and informative workshops on memory techniques by Ed from Inspire Education and with team building activities from Sarah Maloney, a body percussion specialist. Everyone involved had fun, even the school staff, who also had to get involved in the sessions! The workshops proved extremely popular with the students who all seemed to take some fantastic tips away.

These are a few things the students learnt about themselves...

'It's easier to remember stuff in mind maps'

'Mind maps truly help'

'I am able to learn with a range of people'

'I have learnt that I can memorise anything if I try'

'That university is an option for me'

'I enjoy social events and I like the sound of university life'

'I can fit in with people I just met'

'That I can choose my own future'

'I do have a good memory with the right techniques'

'That if I have confidence I can achieve the best'

This was a really positive way to start to project and provided a great platform for students to begin their revision for those all important exams. The next phase of the project involves students coming onto campus again to take part in a series of Advanced Workshops.

Memorable event for all involved

These workshops will provide an excellent insight into what studying at a university can be like and a great introduction the subjects on offer. Students had the choice of Law, American Studies, Psychology, Computing, Maths, E-Learning and Creative Writing. This extensive list is thanks to the support of schools and

staff at The University of Northampton, who kindly volunteered their time to prepare and deliver the workshops. The final phase of the project will be a 4 day residential in April. This will bring together all aspects of the programme. to give students a real taste of what studying at university could be like for them. They will get to study a selection of the subjects in more depth and take part in a wide variety of social activities such as a trip to Lazer Zone and a themed party! The student experience will be completed with a 'graduation ceremony' to recognise the students' achievements. This year Peter Bush (Pro Vice Chancellor of The University of Northampton) will be making sure that the event is a memorable one for all involved.

Resources from these events and general information about the project will be available at www.be4university.com in due course. All schools and students will be informed when they become available. If you have any questions about the project then please contact Hayley Ward on 01604 893315 or by email to hayley.ward@northampton.ac.uk



GETTING TO THE **HARD TO REACH** IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NS-SEC Classification	Number of under 20 year-old accepted applicants								% increase 07/08-08/09	% increase 01/02-08/09
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09		
NS-SEC7: Routine occupations	136	121	152	131	135	122	147	150	2.0%	10.3%
NS-SEC6: Semi-routine occupations	199	223	238	229	259	227	235	282	20.0%	41.7%
NS-SEC5: Lower supervisory and technical occupations	131	114	102	110	112	114	106	112	5.7%	-14.5%
NS-SEC4: Small employers and own account workers	140	151	171	147	166	161	153	162	5.9%	15.7%
NS-SEC 4-7: Lower Socio-Economic Groups	606	609	663	617	672	624	641	706	10.1%	16.5%
NS-SEC3: Intermediate occupations	217	277	261	260	300	258	288	281	-2.4%	29.5%
NS-SEC2: Lower managerial and professional occupations	827	800	827	765	858	764	810	814	0.5%	-1.6%
NS-SEC1: Higher managerial and professional occupations	618	571	587	580	625	537	607	591	-2.6%	-4.4%
NS-SEC 1-3: Higher Socio-Economic Groups	1,662	1,648	1,675	1,605	1,783	1,559	1,705	1,686	-1.1%	1.4%
NS-SEC Unknown	229	224	280	251	409	388	452	490	8.4%	114.0%
Total	2,497	2,481	2,618	2,473	2,864	2,571	2,798	2,882	3.0%	15.4%

Figure 1: Number of under 20 year old accepted UCAS applicants by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC), 2001/02 to 2008/09: Northamptonshire residents

Recent figures produced by UCAS indicated there has been further increase in university applications, particularly encouraging was the news that applications from students from lower socio-economic groups has also increased.

What's the picture in Northamptonshire?

The following charts are extracts from the forthcoming data report due in early April showing a slight decrease in applicants from target groups this year although this should be seen against a huge increase in the previous year. We can still do better with closer targeting of the most needy students in the county and England using post code and IMD (Fig.2). However, when participants are monitored by social class, NS-SEC 4-7 there are even better results, indicating that the targeting activities are proving successful in these areas (Fig.1). Your co-operation is appreciated.

There was a decrease of 6% in number of accepted UCAS applicants from 40% most deprived areas between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 entry, compared with increase of 5% of those from 60% least deprived neighbourhoods (Fig.2). Although the proportion of young accepted applicants from 40% most deprived areas therefore fell, over the five years of integrated Aimhigher activity there has been significant growth in the number of accepted UCAS applicants from 40% most deprived areas.

This decrease followed an exceptional increase the previous year 2007/08, however. The proportion of young accepted applicants from under-represented neighbourhoods (according to POLAR2 data) remains higher than previous years. There is still an upward trend over the

longer period despite of the downturn last year (Fig.3).

There has been a considerable increase in the number and proportion of young accepted applicants from the low socio-economic groups NS-SEC 4-7 between 2007/08 and 2008/09 entry (Fig.4).

In 2008/09, young people from NS-SEC 4-7 accounted for over 29% of all young accepted applicants, compared with just over 27% the previous year, and less than 27% at the start of the 8 year period.

What is Aimhigher planning to do to get even closer to these groups of students?

- In partnership with Connexions and the LSC, Aimhigher has planned a project to raise the awareness of progression routes with year 1 students in FE colleges or year 12 students in school, potentially following level 2 qualifications with little awareness of where to go next. This will dovetail with promotional and taster schemes being developed in the FE colleges.
- At the last APC meeting approval was given to employ an additional member of staff to work with vocational students, and work-based learning apprentices. We have begun the recruitment process and expect to have the post filled by early June.
- In the interim period Hayley Ward will be developing the links for the new member of staff to enable them to make the greatest impact engaging these students from the start of the new academic year.
- The team of co-ordinators will be offering the Higher Education Progression Framework of

activities to the hard to reach students in schools and colleges. This will require a commitment from school and college staff to ensure student's attendance at Aimhigher activities.

- Working with our partners to review and expand the scope and diversity of the Moving on Up events to make them more exciting and appealing to students who are looking for training routes other than university on leaving school.
- Aimhigher proposes to work closely with the County National Challenge Schools co-ordinator to ensure that our activities and projects are supportive of that action plan.

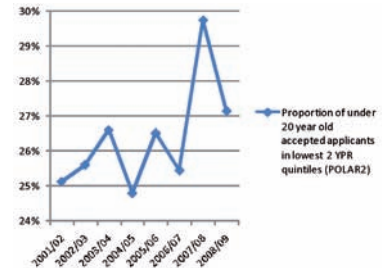


Figure 3: Change in the proportion of young applicants from POLAR2 low young HE participation areas: Northamptonshire residents

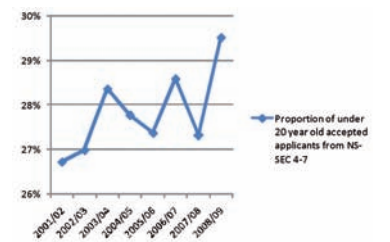


Figure 4: Change in the proportion of young applicants in lowest socio-economic groups: Northamptonshire residents

Phillip Burch *Aimhigher County Manager*

NATIONAL IMD2007 RANKING	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	% change 2007-2008	% change 2001-2008
A - 10% most deprived LSOAs in England	17	14	24	22	33	26	36	41	13.9%	141.2%
B	91	72	98	81	90	86	107	104	-2.8%	14.3%
C	131	97	126	95	117	120	156	130	-16.7%	-0.8%
D	145	177	149	135	172	145	185	180	-2.7%	24.1%
40% most deprived areas nationally	384	360	397	333	412	377	484	455	-6.0%	18.5%
E	137	173	166	172	210	190	171	193	12.9%	40.9%
F	158	156	126	138	173	141	157	169	7.6%	7.0%
G	227	197	246	198	263	229	223	247	10.8%	8.8%
H	383	407	411	410	440	371	456	438	-3.9%	14.4%
I	656	664	656	653	731	688	718	707	-1.5%	7.8%
J - 10% least deprived LSOAs in England	552	524	616	569	635	575	589	673	14.3%	21.9%
60% least deprived areas nationally	2,113	2,121	2,221	2,140	2,452	2,194	2,314	2,427	4.9%	14.9%
Grand Total	2,497	2,481	2,618	2,473	2,864	2,571	2,798	2,882	3.0%	15.4%

Figure 2: Number of under 20 year old accepted UCAS applicants by national IMD category, 2001/02 to 2008/09: Northamptonshire residents

'A' FACTOR PROJECT VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

MONDAY 8th DECEMBER 2008

Due to the success of previous 'A' Factor cohorts the new phase Aimhigher has continued in a similar way with an initial visit to the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament. This provided a wonderful opportunity to raise learners' awareness of the structure of government, the democratic processes and some of the historical and anecdotal information associated with parliament.

The visit began with a tour of Westminster seeing both Houses and the lobbies and even touching the foot of Winston Churchill's statue in the 'Central Lobby', noted for giving MPs good luck as before entering the 'House' – of commons chamber.

Town centre issues

The tour was followed by a question and answer session in a committee room with Brian Binley MP (Northampton South), unfortunately

Sally Keeble MP (Northampton North) who made the original arrangements, but was unable to be there due to family circumstances.

The session with Brian was lively and informative, the future of the Cobblers ground and the appearance and regeneration of the town centre were just two issues raised. The learner's opinions and concerns were listened to attentively and responded to enthusiastically and sensitively. On leaving this session we bumped into Ian Duncan-Smith (former leader of the opposition) who stopped and chatted briefly and posed for a photograph – as MPs do!

'Hats off Strangers'

After a short interlude for lunch in the cafeteria at Westminster it was time to see the house in action from the public gallery.

This began with us witnessing the Speakers procession from his office to

the House of Commons; his approach was heralded by the shout 'Hats off Strangers' (a historic part of the ceremony). Then up to the gallery, where an important and historic debate around MP's declaration of expenses was in full swing. We saw a packed house with many 'Big Guns' old and new on both sides. The debate was lively and we witnessed democracy in action, as the house 'divided' (voted) on the motion. The 'House' emptied into the division lobbies to record their votes Ayes to the left and Nos to the right. The result was reported to the Speaker (chairman or boss) by the tellers (vote counters) the Ayes had it!!

A great day at Westminster with loads to talk about on the way home!! The group were also fortunate to have a flight on the London Eye and Westminster was dwarfed, but looked very good from the very top!!

NORTHAMPTON

YEAR 11 get prepared for the future!

During December and January Aimhigher hosted students from NSG & The Academy on two exciting and informative days. There were a wide range of sessions on offer, including a motivational session from Tom Barwood, Higher Education subject tasters in Law and English, a GCSE Maths masterclass and a Higher Education quiz.

Working with Parents and Carers

Over the last few months in partnership with schools (Thomas Becket Catholic School, Unity, Kingsthorpe & Abbeyfield). Aimhigher has been working with parents/carers to ensure they have up to date information and advice about the ever changing progression routes in Further and Higher Education. Work has also been done around supporting revision sources of information and support parents/carers can use.

Maths masterclasses

In partnership with Inspire Education we've been able to provide some excellent maths curriculum support! Year 11 students from Weston Favell, Unity, Thomas Becket, Abbeyfield, The Academy & Duston have all benefited from one or more masterclasses. The sessions help to reinforce classroom teaching, focussing on topics that form part of students GCSEs.

Students Comments:

'The day made me realise if I want a career, not to let anything get in the way of success'.

'The day showed me why everything is so important to get to what I want to do. Also, by believing in yourself you can do what you want to do, it reassured me'.

'The different techniques really helped me. It was also visual learning which helped me a lot'.

Maths masterclass - Students comments
'I loved it. It helped me, I contributed a lot. I'm more confident about doing angles, algebraic skills and statistics. Please come back'.

English Mastclass - teacher comment
'A purposeful and open atmosphere with clearly excellent relationships and good learning'.

Bangladeshi Raising Achievement Project (BRAP) working in partnership.

Bangladeshi Raising Achievement Programme (BRAP) working in partnership the Local Authority Programme, Aimhigher were invited to Grendon Hall to have input into the year 9 & 11 conferences. Students were able to access information and advice around progression routes in Further and Higher Education, the variety of courses available and why it could be an option for the future.



Amy Pyle

What's coming up after half term?...

Student Finance sessions for year 13/2 Higher Education. Online applications can now be made direct.gov.uk/studentfinance. If you would like to book a session please contact us ASAP.

Moving On Up conference

31/03/09 at The University of Northampton. If you have not booked students onto this fantastic opportunity please get in touch!

More **Maximise Your Potential** days throughout February and March. For Year 10 students from Duston, Weston Favell & Thomas Becket Catholic school.

If you have any questions about Aimhigher activities in Northampton town please contact Amy Pyle Aimhigher coordinator 07793528491 01604 893330 amy.pyle@northampton.ac.uk



Kerry Downes

MOVING ON UP 2009

CONFERENCE GIVES STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO MOVE ON UP!

Over 230 Year 10 - 12 students from 8 schools and training providers from across Northamptonshire descended upon Silverstone Race Circuit on Friday 6th March.

'Moving On Up' was an all-day conference organised by Aimhigher Northamptonshire, based at The University of Northampton, in partnership with the SWAN Partnership. The SWAN Learning Partnership consists of 11 secondary schools and 2 Colleges in the South West Area of Northamptonshire. The partnership exists to enhance the learning opportunities for young people between the ages of 14 to 19, thus enabling them to reach their full potential.



Training providers, colleges, universities and regional businesses were on hand to speak to potential learners and explain their provisions, with students able to access all of these providers under one roof. Workshops were provided by these contacts and students can attend two sessions which they have a particular interest in.

Philip Burch County Manager of Aimhigher Northamptonshire was delighted that so many young people

from the county were able to attend this event. 'This is such a good opportunity for young people to find out more about careers and job prospects when they need to be making decisions in their lives. The opportunity to talk to employers, to see for themselves what is on offer and to understand some of the skills they will need to gain to be successful were all there in one event. Students were able to take part in practical workshops like plumbing and car mechanics made it all seem very real. This was a well organised day and from the students I had the chance to talk to it was felt to be beneficial'.

Nick Brosnan Director of the SWAN Partnership commented "A lot of hard work and effort went into the planning and preparation for the Moving On Up conference which in turn provided an excellent opportunity for the workforce of the future to meet their potential employers. The event gave everyone involved the opportunity to ask questions and find out more, bridging the gap between employer and potential employee. We are extremely pleased with the number of institutions involved and I would personally like to thank our supporters."

Aimhigher is a joint initiative by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) supported by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to widen participation in higher education and increase the number of young people who have the abilities and aspirations to benefit from it.

GIRLS INTO ENGINEERING AT DANETRE SCHOOL

Aimhigher and EBOL worked in partnership to organise fun and interactive day about Engineering. The day was kicked off by Natalie Anne Keeler who works as a Senior Test Engineer for Mercedes-Benz and is also an ex Danetre School Student. Natalie spoke about her experience in Formula One engineering as well as the different progression routes.

The students then had the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops delivered by British Gas and CITB.

Phil Fleetwood of Danetre School commented 'The day was cleverly planned, with three, contrasting guests talking about engineering from a female perspective. The girls were involved throughout and the comments at the end were wholly positive, many girls expressing an interest in taking Engineering courses in the short term and following an Engineering career after school. A number of girls came with little interest in Engineering and left with a clear intention to find out more! A very successful day overall'

MOVING ON UP

Building on the success of last years Moving on Up 2 Aimhigher, the SWAN Partnership and Connexions will be running a similar event on Thursday 23rd April at Towcester Race Course. The aim of the event is to increase retention of year 12 and year 1 college students through exploring the different progression routes available to them

Students will participate in the following sessions:

Progression routes/NAVMS

Interview skills

Mock interviews – with feedback

CV/Application writing

Training Providers market place

Action planning

The workshops will be delivered by a mixture of professionals from Aimhigher, Connexions, training providers and local/national businesses.

Places are limited for this event so please contact Kerry Downes at Aimhigher to reserve places by Friday 3rd April 2009
kerry.downes@northampton.ac.uk / 01604 893304.





Jennie Grove

FAMILY DAY SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 2009

Family days are a unique opportunity for Aimhigher students to attend a day at the University with their family. Everyone is welcome; mums, dads, grandparents, and siblings are all invited to have a taste of University. This event had quite a large group of younger brothers and sisters who were kept entertained with colouring books, stickers and card games.

a look at University life

Although some of them were a bit too young to be thinking about University, just being on campus looked to be having a positive effect. Being involved in this kind of event gives the younger children an idea of what's out there and will hopefully remove the fear of the unknown in years to come. The majority of parents had never been to a University campus before so were interested to see what it's really like and what kind of things students can get involved with. Our team of Student Ambassadors were on hand to talk to students and parents about the University experience. They were also able to give an insight into how they manage their money and how the fees, grants and loans system works.

The day included a campus tour including the chance to look round the Halls of Residence, where the students live. After braving the cold round campus visitors were rewarded with soup and sandwiches. Students from Wrenn, Manor, Ferrers, and Wollaston all attended and the feedback was very positive:

'It has made me more confident about going to University in the future.'
Year 9 student from Wrenn School.

'Great day, really good idea to bring parents along with children'
Parent of a Manor School student.

'It gave an insight into the practicalities of University life, both from an academic and student life perspective. The activity was broken up into various bite size chunks so as not to swamp us with information. The interaction with current students was very useful.'
Parent of a Manor School student.

We will be holding another Family Day on Saturday 14th March 2009. If you would like more information please contact Jennie Grove –
jennie.grove@northampton.ac.uk

Sixth Form Evening

On Thursday 15th January I attended a year 11 into 12 evening at The Rushden and Diamonds Centre. The event was aimed at year 11 students in East Northants who were considering their next step. All the East Northants Schools were represented and parents and students had an opportunity to speak to teachers about the courses on offer.

The event was very well attended and Aimhigher and Connexions were on hand to give general information about careers and course choices. It was great to see so many students and parents interested in staying on at school and I look forward to working with them when they enter the sixth form in September.

Case Study

Joanna Smith currently Studying BSc Hons in Sport Science and coaching at Bedford University. Joanna was a pupil at Corby Community College from 2002 where she studied GCSE gaining a number of Cs and Ds; after her 'A' Levels course she left for Bedford University in September 2008. As the first in the family to go to University she wanted to, 'follow what I want to be and not what other people want me to be. I decided to go to university as I wanted to be a P.E teacher for a few years and thought that was what I really wanted to do with my life'.

Breaking the mould

Joanna benefited from a number of Aimhigher activities that encouraged her on her journey to reach her goal, these included; visit to University of Northampton in year 9, Year 11 exam revision skills, support in attending university open days, university research and choice sessions, finance information and support, support with application – personal statements etc. She was also fortunate to secure work experience in the school's PE department. With the support of Corby Community College and Aimhigher working in partnership Joanna searched for opportunities, took

them, 'broke the mould' and is clearly enjoying her university experience saying, 'life at university is one of the best experiences I have ever had in my life so far, as it gives you more freedom and independence to do what you want to do and you make a lot more friends. I feel that going to university was the right choice for me as I am enjoying my course and have met some of the most amazing people and the social life also plays a big part in your university life which is equally as good as the course that I am on!!' Aimhigher Northamptonshire wishes her every success for the future.

Returning to Work

After 6 months of Maternity Leave it was nice to return to Aimhigher at the end of January for a rest! On August 29th 2008, Evie Joyce Wheeler came into the world and things have never been the same since!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at home with our little girl and it was hard to leave her when the time came for me to return, although after a few days it felt as though I had never been away!

I have been really fortunate in returning to find the role of Aimhigher Co-ordinator (Corby and Kettering) has kept going from strength to strength in my absence thanks to Hayley Ward who covered my Maternity Leave.

I look forward to catching up with everyone again over the coming months and moving forward with the Young People in Corby and Kettering.



Hayley Ward



Julie Wheeler

Autumn and Spring Term

During October and November 08 a new wave of students who have been selected to benefit from Aimhigher activities attended Launch Evenings across Corby and Kettering to find out what exciting things are in store for them.

Over 200 students, parents and carers attended the various evenings to find out all about the Aimhigher programme and what will be on offer in their schools.

Audiences enjoyed introductions from Area Co-ordinator, Hayley Ward, Student Ambassadors and guest speaker such as Tom Barwood. There was a chance to ask lots of questions and pick up lots of useful tips and literature.

Lots of activities have already happened and the following are due to take place in the coming months:

Super Learner Day

for year 8's (at Ise Community Science College)

Engineering day for year 9's in all schools

Moving on Up

for years 11-13

'Dragon's Den'

competition

Exam revision

sessions for the all important GCSE's in year 11

Maximise Your Potential

visits to The University of Northampton for year 10's.

'Taster Days'

for year 9 students

during June

FROM STUDENT AMBASSADOR TO DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

A BRIEF REFLECTION ON WORKING WITH AIMHIGHER BY KEVIN CHAPMAN



Having secured a post-graduate place at the University of East Anglia, I found myself with time to relax before my course was due to start. In fact, I had about six months free time on my hands. Initially, the thought of so much free time was great, but after two weeks of day time television, I was desperate to start job hunting. Trying to keep my options open, I sent an e-mail to the Aimhigher Northamptonshire office requesting any work dates. I had previously worked for Aimhigher as a Student Ambassador whilst studying at the University of Northampton, therefore, was willing to help out on any events they may have had planned. In all honesty, I was not expecting to get a response, so when I received a reply asking if I was available for interview I jumped at the chance.

Welcome to the team

I met with Philip Burch, Aimhigher Northamptonshire County Manager, to discuss the opportunity on offer. To my luck, one of the Area Co-ordinators was about to take maternity leave. Therefore, following a shift in roles, the position of development officer was becoming

available. Furthermore, Aimhigher only needed someone to fill this position for the duration of the maternity leave. I thought this would be ideal for me, fitting in with my own plans.

Two weeks later, after my interview, I found myself in the Aimhigher office reviewing the up and coming events with Naj Mistry, Development Officer for Schools and Colleges. Initially, it felt quite strange compared to my Ambassador work, as the shift in responsibility made me more conscious of the importance the widening participation role Aimhigher was trying to achieve.

Although the Aimhigher team made me feel very welcome, I was still a little unsure about what was expected of me. Therefore, when the task to recruit new 'Student Ambassadors' from the University's new intake arose, I made it my priority. Still relying heavily on Naj to guide me, recruitment posters and leaflets were re-designed, preparations to attend the fresher's fairs and jobs fair were completed and computerised recording of student details put in to place. In addition, specialist training was developed and delivered to potential candidates. Student Ambassador numbers increased by an extra 80 people, all who have since proven to be very capable.

Encourage and inspire

Having gained some extra experience and confidence from presenting in front of the student ambassadors, I now wanted to try my hand in front of the school children, who our

work is really targeted at. 'Maximise Your Potential' is a day long event, allowing cohort students to visit a University campus and produce a poster documenting their personal strengths and future ambitions. Taking a leading role in delivering such a day was exiting, however, working along side student ambassadors who I had previously worked with as an ambassador myself felt strange. Would they be happy taking direction from? Would they notice how apprehensive I felt? Would they have difficulties with my change in responsibility? In hindsight I needn't have worried, the day was a success with no issues arising and the school students completing their tasks adequately. I was further encouraged when a member of school staff enquired if I had ever thought about going in to full time teaching.

Since then, I have developed and delivered sessions in Northamptonshire schools on subjects such as student finance, learning styles, career choices and progression routes into higher education. The purpose of our work is always to encourage and inspire individuals to achieve their true potential. Having come from a background where the only expectation was to finish school and get what ever work was available, makes me truly appreciate the nature of work Aimhigher is striving to achieve. Working for Aimhigher Northamptonshire has allowed me to work along side individuals dedicated to accomplish Aimhigher's goals, which on reflection, have influenced my own careers aspirations.

HAIR AND BEAUTY EVENT

Sixty eight students from Wellingborough and East Northants took part in a Hair and Beauty Information day on Monday 19th January. The event was aimed at students in year 9 and 11 who were interested in pursuing a career in the Hair and Beauty Industry.

There are several routes available for students which will all lead them to a career in the industry but deciding which course is right for you can be difficult.

'How to' demonstrations

The day was organised as part of the Northamptonshire 14-19 plan, in collaboration with EBLO who were able to organise input from local employers. The event was held at Weavers School which has a purpose built Hair and Beauty Salon with courses provided through Tresham Institute.

Tresham students were on hand to give demonstrations in the Hair Salon and Tracy Holben from Hands On Beauty showed the students how to do a manicure.

Students also had the opportunity to learn about massage, facials and other beauty treatments.

The day started with a presentation from two students who are currently at University College Birmingham working towards a Foundation Degree in Salon Management. They talked about their

Dates for Your Diary

March 2009

Wednesday 25th March

Healthcare Taster Day at
The University of Northampton

Tuesday 31st March

Moving on Up for Northampton
schools and Colleges at
The University of Northampton

April 2009

County 14-19 Conference at
Highgate House

June 2009

Monday 1st June

Cool Chemistry Conference
The University of Northampton

Monday 8th June

IGAG for 19+ Conference

July 2009

Date TBC Routes and Funding for
HE Opportunities Conference

Tuesday 7th July

UK Memory Championships at The
Northampton Saints



A Weavers student practices on a 'head' used for teaching.

course, student life and what they hope to do when they finish University. Their presentation was interesting and informative and showed the students that there are lots of opportunities to progress in the Hair and Beauty industry.

This pilot event was a success and we hope to expand it next year so we can involve more students from more schools. The new diploma in Hair and Beauty will be available to student in East Northants from September 2009 and will be available in Wellingborough from 2010. This event showed that there is a wide variety of courses available and that it is important for students to have all the information available before they make any decisions.

The evaluations were very positive with most students saying they enjoyed the day and that the event had increased their interest in Hair and Beauty.

Some comments from the students who attended the day:

'It was definitely better than school because it was more practical and I learn that way' Student from Huxlow Science College

'I enjoyed doing practicals and having a chance to do some hairdressing and practice with nails'. Student from Huxlow Science College

'The information about university was interesting and the demonstrations on the hair were good'.

Student from Rushden Community College



A student gets a hand massage.



Students observe a massage session.

SNOW CAUSES MOVING ON UP CONFERENCES TO BE REARRANGED...

Over 450 Year 10 - 12 students from schools and colleges across Northamptonshire were due to descend upon Silverstone Race Circuit on Thursday 5th February and at Kettering Conference Centre on Thursday 12th February for the Wellingborough and Kettering areas, but unfortunately due to the first serious snow falls of the year these events could not take place.

'Moving On Up Conferences are now in their third year and are organised by Aimhigher Northamptonshire, in partnership with the SWAN Partnership, Northamptonshire EBLO, Connexions, and Kettering Borough Council aimed at offering young people a chance to see real employment and training opportunities

Key personnel who were part of the organising team were up early to undertake the hard job of ringing rounds schools, guest speakers, training providers and other partnership organisations that were having stands in the exhibition fair. Everyone was disappointed that this event was not able to take place but a decision was made that these events would be rescheduled. The new dates were 6th March for Daventry area and 9th March for the Wellingborough and Kettering Area. This year has seen an extra effort going into the planning and preparation for the Moving On Up conference which in turn



provides an excellent opportunity for the workforce of the future to meet their potential employers. The event gives everyone involved the opportunity to ask questions and find out more, bridging the gap between employer and potential employee. There are so many people who

makes these events successful and we are extremely pleased with the commitment of those involved. So thank you to all those who helped to ensure that the events took place albeit after the snow.



Aimhigher Northamptonshire Summer Schools 2009

Be. the Best

Tuesday 31st March – Friday 3rd April
(Gifted and talented students)

Aspire

Tuesday 7th July – Saturday 11th July

Bodies, bones and blood

Tuesday 14th July – Saturday 18th July

Dare

Tuesday 21st July – Saturday 25th July

Minister visits University to review student skills and access to education

David Lammy MP, Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property, visited The University of Northampton on Thursday 12 March 2009, to speak with students and staff about their experiences of higher education (HE), and answer questions on skills and the Government's future vision for the HE sector. Philip Burch, Aimhigher County Manager chaired the question session with students and found the level of questions thought provoking. Students asked 'Will achieving a target of 50% of the 14-30 population participating in HE devalue the status of a degree? Should Higher Education become more diverse or more homogeneous? In 2026 how different will the higher education landscape look? This also provides an opportunity for students to find out more about

government policies and plans for the future that could effect them in HE.



The Aimhigher Office

Aimhigher Northamptonshire, The University of Northampton, Avenue Campus, St. George's Avenue, Northampton NN2 6JD.
Tel: 01604 893310 Fax: 01604 717813 Email: aimhigher@northampton.ac.uk www.aimhighernorthamptonshire.ac.uk