



HeppSY+ and Outwood Grange Academies Trust

Creating a culture of higher education across a multi-academy trust

HeppSY+

The Higher Education Progression Partnership South Yorkshire Plus (HeppSY+) is part of the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) funded by the Office for Students.

The programme aims to support young people from 45 designated target wards, in Year 9 to Year 13, who are most at risk of missing out on higher education. We offer students impartial information, advice and guidance and encourage engagement with all higher education opportunities to help young people make informed choices.

More information: www.heppsy.org



Outwood Grange Academies Trust

Outwood Grange Academies Trust (OGAT) is a multi-academy trust (MAT) and a system sponsor. Born out of the success of Outwood Grange Academy in Wakefield, the trust now manages 21 secondary schools and 10 primaries and caters for over 23,000 young people.

The trust is recognised in the North of England as one of the highest performing MATs and is regularly one of, if not the highest performing MAT in the country for disadvantaged students.

All the academies pride themselves on their vision: 'Students First: Raising Standards and Transforming Lives'.

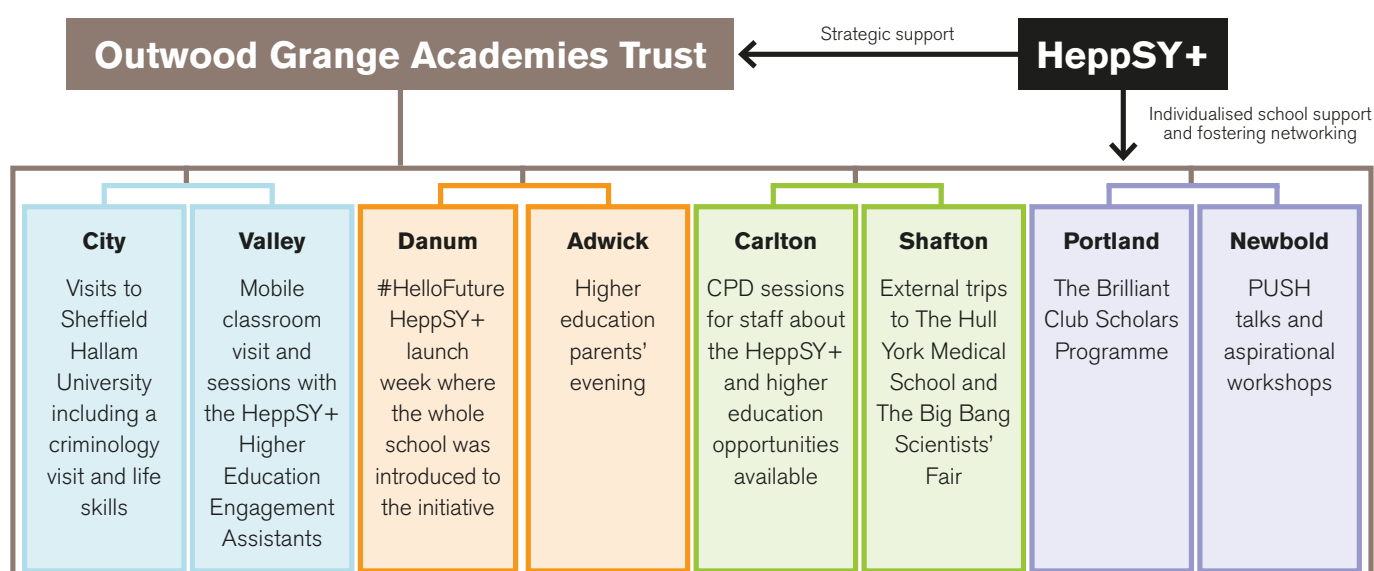
OGAT also has a training organisation called the Outwood Institute of Education which offers training and support to help develop people by running continued professional development

(CPD) programmes with an overall aim to raise standards across the education system as a whole.

There are eight Outwood academies within the HeppSY+ designated target wards: Outwood Academy Adwick, Outwood Academy Carlton, Outwood Academy City, Outwood Academy Danum, Outwood Academy Newbold, Outwood Academy Portland, Outwood Academy Shafton and Outwood Academy Valley.

More information: www.outwood.com

OGAT and examples of HeppSY+ supported activity



Activity



In our academy we have used the HeppSY+ programme to bring together existing activity with new activity to create a coordinated and sustained programme.”

Examples of activity that has taken place across the OGAT schools in South Yorkshire include:

- Visits by the HeppSY+ mobile classroom
- HeppSY+ sleep sessions – tips and advice for getting a good night's sleep before exams
- HeppSY+ and Careers Inc launch week
- PUSH motivational talks
- The Brilliant Club – Scholars Programme: utilising the expertise and passion of PhD students to inspire young people capable of achieving a place at a UK top 30 university
- CPD events for staff
- Parents' evening with session about higher education and progression opportunities
- Career of the Week
- #DareToDream
- University visits including to University of Cambridge, Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), University of Manchester and University of Sheffield. Activities at higher education institutions have included SHU Science Week, Big Bang and STEM for Girls
- Higher Education Progression Adviser one-to-one sessions with sixth form students
- Better Learners Better Workers employment skills programme
- Get up to Speed engineering taster event
- National Careers and Apprenticeship Week
- #HelloFuture follow up week

Activity Focus: Career of the Week

Individual academies have been focusing on a sustained activity called 'Career of the Week'. The initiative focuses on bringing in employers from both the local community and further afield to expose students to the career opportunities available and help them relate the subjects they are currently learning to the world of work. The initiative focuses on informal interactions between students and employers, allowing students to ask questions in an environment they feel comfortable in. Employers have included the Royal Navy, NHS, Army, High Speed Rail, GTA and Doncaster College University Centre.



HeppSY+ has helped us to identify new opportunities and signpost to existing offer to expose our students to higher education.”



Case study:

HeppSY+ Launched at Outwood Academy Danum #HelloFuture

“

The session with HeppSY+ was really interesting, I learnt a lot!”

To launch the HeppSY+ programme and engage students in higher education, Outwood Academy Danum dedicated a week to an official HeppSY+ Launch.

Throughout the week students took part in an exciting and varied timetable of events, all focusing on exposing students to their options and giving them the tools to make an informed choice. Activities included the introduction of their **#HelloFuture** hashtag and programme, higher education assemblies, interactive activities, guest speakers, sessions with the HeppSY+ Higher Education Advisers, university representatives and the HeppSY+ Mobile Classroom, as well as competitions and a mobile photo booth to encourage students to talk about and share their career aspirations.

Feedback from the event was very positive and the students involved thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the activity. Students particularly enjoyed the interactive photobooth, which gave them an opportunity to share their ambitions and think about what they would need to do to achieve them.

To further reinforce the higher education message, the Academy produced an information leaflet for parents which was distributed at a whole school parents evening.

Working in Partnership

OGAT offers a unique opportunity for the HeppSY+ programme to work alongside not only senior leadership in the individual schools, but also senior staff at MAT level, to develop a strategic approach and plan for a sustained programme of activity to help young people understand and achieve their potential. This approach, allows both the schools, MAT and HeppSY+ to deliver an efficient and consistent programme of activity. As a result, HeppSY+ has been able to have a bigger impact on a larger number of students.

Strategic Support

Using a rigorous assessment process, each academy has identified students who fit the criteria for HeppSY+ support. The offer has been enhanced to complement the existing programme by working collaboratively to identify opportunities where more activity would be beneficial. An enhanced programme supported by HeppSY+ is now being delivered in all academies to provide relevant and accurate higher education information to students, in a variety of settings, incorporating individual student needs.

The collaborative approach between OGAT and HeppSY+ is helping to harness the creative ideas from staff in each school and implement these across the MAT, taking into account the differences and similarities between schools.

Fostering Networking

The network of schools involved in the programme meet regularly with senior colleagues from HeppSY+ and the OGAT Executive Team to discuss ideas and activity, as well as share their recent experiences and discuss solutions to barriers that individual academies may have.

Additional benefits include maximising staffing resource; for example, where one individual is able to take responsibility for after-school activity across two or more sites. The HeppSY+ network also allows the academies to make the most of opportunities for external trips where students from more than one academy can attend the same activity.

Individualised Support

Each academy has its own identity located in its community. The approach the partnership has taken values this and supports individual needs of the students, parents/carers and teaching staff. HeppSY+ provides individualised support for each academy to support the implementation of their programme and develop a culture of higher education.

“ Social mobility is a challenge for the whole country and the work of HeppSY+, who provide valuable funding and support, is helping to provide opportunities and open doors, raising the aspirations of young people across the region.”

**Sabiha Laher, Associate
Executive Principal, Outwood
Grange Academies Trust**



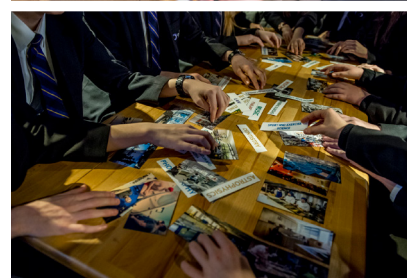
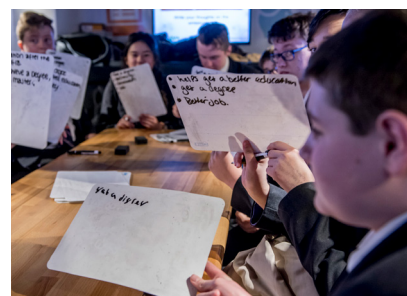
By March 2018, 42% of the potential HeppSY+ cohort in OGAT within South Yorkshire had already participated in at least one higher education activity. This figure will increase dramatically over the rest of this academic year and the next.

Perceived Barriers to Higher Education

One key challenge and focus identified by OGAT is teaching young people about resilience. Developing confidence and resilience is a central objective of the HeppSY+ programme and an integral part of raising aspirations. Part of the collaborative programme with OGAT includes developing curriculum materials and running higher education progression activities to help students explore, develop, build confidence and achieve. The programme is also working with parents and the wider community to provide advice and information on what support is available to overcome perceived barriers.

Perceived barriers highlighted by members of staff across the OGAT chain include:

- **Cultural and socio-economic factors** - Pre-existing stereotypes can influence young people's choices. Often some of the students in OGAT are the first generation within their families to be considering higher education. This can lead to apprehension around further study and to young people not even knowing or considering their options.
- **Finance** - Many students are concerned by the amount of debt incurred whilst studying a degree. Other students have identified concerns about financially supporting their family whilst at university and the costs of attending open days.
- **Lack of confidence** - Some students lack confidence in their own skills and worry they are not talented or academic enough to progress onto further study.
- **Attainment** - The new specification GCSEs are presenting a challenge in relation to students' perceptions of their ability to achieve the relevant qualification and grades to progress onto further study. OGAT has identified an approach to support this challenge by placing a greater emphasis on embedding subjects such as maths into cross-curricular subjects.



Please do get in touch

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