

# Higher Education Progression Adviser (HEPA) College Offer

## What is the role of a HEPA?

HEPAs provide those young people with the potential to benefit from higher education access to the most up-to-date information, advice and guidance.

Working as part of the HeppSY+ programme, we are independent ambassadors for higher education as a progression route for all students. We do not represent the interests of any higher education institutions. Our impartial advice and guidance will complement the existing careers provision within your college by providing higher education specific careers education information, advice and guidance (CEIAG). We will run activities to form part of the overall collaborative HeppSY+ offer to support the college delivery plans that you have developed with the HeppSY+ College Programme Manager, Christine Moorey.

## Your college HEPA

Gideon Woldelessie



Gideon is a Maths & Finance graduate and qualified maths teacher. He has always been interested in widening participation. After teaching, he worked for a charity in London supporting disadvantaged young people in accessing STEM pathways at higher tariff universities. More recently, Gideon was a project manager at a charity working alongside schools to help young people develop their employability skills.

## Who do we work with and how?

As part of HeppSY+, we provide enhanced higher education information, careers advice and guidance to HeppSY+ targeted level 3 learners in order to increase the number of young people progressing to higher education. We can tailor our support depending on what will work best for your college and the students – from one-one support, small group work and assemblies, to providing a managed online environment.

We can currently offer each college a HEPA for one day per fortnight (or equivalent) as shown. Please note that up to three hours is classed as a half day, and bookings of more than three hours are classed as a full day.

Term Dates		½ Term Length	College HEPA entitlement
<b>Autumn Term</b>			
Aut 1	Monday 4th September – Friday 27th October	8 weeks	4 days
Aut 2	Monday 6th November – Friday 22nd December	7 weeks	3.5 days
<b>Spring Term</b>			
Spr 1	Monday 8th January – Friday 9th February	5 weeks	2.5 days
Spr 2	Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd March	5 weeks	2.5 days
<b>Summer Term</b>			
Sum 1	Monday 9th April – Friday 25th May	7 weeks	3.5 days
Sum 2	Monday 4th June – Monday 23rd July	7 weeks	3.5 days

## What can we cover?

All our sessions inspire the young people, raise aspirations and promote the benefits of higher education, in line with the career aims of the HeppSY+ students. Where there are specific target groups or interests such as Higher/Degree Apprenticeships, we can arrange sessions or activities on these.

Suggested sessions include:

### Year 12

- Exploring possible barriers to considering higher education and how to tackle them
- Student finance, how it is arranged, loan repayment and challenging preconceptions
- Broadening knowledge of different higher education options and courses, and tackling jargon
- Signposting relevant taster/preparatory higher education sessions, and support with associated applications

### Year 13

- Support for UCAS applications
- Student finance, how it is arranged, loan repayment and challenging preconceptions
- Critically exploring different higher education routes (apprenticeship vs university vs alternative higher education pathways)

Scheduling of activities will be based on key student transition points.

We can also offer CPD activities on higher education progression for college staff – please ask us about this. Specific themes could be UCAS applications, student finance, Higher/Degree Apprenticeships.

## Student feedback

“ It was really good and I was able to explain my worries. I am now less worried over my choices.”  
**Y13 student, Thomas Rotherham College**

“ I now know that university is easier to pay for than I thought. It's definitely made me more comfortable about uni.”  
**Y13 student, Thomas Rotherham College**

## Teacher feedback

“ Thank you for your hard work and for staying 'after hours' to help an additional student – much appreciated. The feedback from our students about your help has been excellent. Our Senior Mentor was delighted at the positive response.”

## Please get in touch

The HEPA for Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges, Gideon Woldelessie, can be contacted at the University of Sheffield, or you can contact Christine Moorey, details below

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