

Higher Education Progression Adviser (HEPA) Schools 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 school 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 school delivery plans that have been developed with the HeppSY+ School Programme Manager, Emma Nicholls.

Who do we work with and how?

As part of HeppSY+, we provide enhanced higher education information, careers advice and guidance to HeppSY+ targeted learners in year 9 to 13 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 school and students – from one-to-one support, group work and assemblies, to providing a managed online environment.

Your school HEPAs



Suzanne Wilks

Suzanne has worked as a qualified careers adviser (postgraduate diploma) at a number of schools in Doncaster and Sheffield over the last 15 years. She has also co-ordinated and delivered various projects working with unemployed teenagers, delivered activity-based residentials and personal social development courses.



Sonia Hardwick

Sonia has worked as a qualified careers adviser (postgraduate diploma) in a variety of settings, including schools. She has also spent many years focusing on developing information and resources – particularly on labour market information – and has worked as a Careers Quality Standard assessor in Sheffield.

What can we cover?

All our sessions will raise aspirations and promote the benefits of higher education, in line with the wider career aims of the HeppSY+ students.

Where there are specific target groups or interests such as Higher/Degree Apprenticeships, we can arrange relevant sessions or activities or signpost as required.

Year group	Suggested topics
9	GCSE choices and future career choice implications
10	Progression routes, further education and higher education options, jobs that need a degree for entry
11	Progression routes, support for students with no post-16 level 3 offers
12	Higher education – tackling possible barriers, support available, broadening knowledge of the range of options and courses, tackling jargon, addressing fears
13	Support for UCAS applications (including staff support), support with offers, university selection events and interview support

- Scheduling of activities will be based on key student transition points.
- It is important for us to work with teachers and parents/carers of targeted students as well as students.
- We can also offer CPD activities on higher education progression for school staff – **please ask us about this. Specific themes could be UCAS applications, student finance, Higher/Degree Apprenticeships.**
- Future activities include the development of resources, including focused labour market information, use of social media, web chat and webinars.

Student feedback

“ She gave me more confidence when it came to writing about myself within my personal statement.”

“ It gave me a better insight into what I should do next and she was very friendly.”

“ It was very helpful to have someone to speak to, assess my options and discuss back-up choices.”

Teacher feedback

“ The one-to-one interviews delivered by Sonia and Suzanne to 26 of our students were excellent. Each interview was personalised to the needs of each young person and had a positive impact. The information, advice and guidance given during the interviews enabled each of the students to make positive progress. We look forward to the follow-up sessions.”

Please get in touch

Our diaries are getting full and dates are booked on a first-come, first-served basis, so please get in touch with us soon to discuss your plans and requirements.

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