



# THE YEAR IN BRIEF



Part of the  
National Collaborative  
Outreach Programme

20|17



# 2017...

## THE YEAR IN BRIEF...

Reaching out...making a difference

### WHO ARE WE?

Aimhigher West Midlands is a partnership of universities, schools and colleges who work together to improve social mobility by widening participation in all forms of higher education.

Based at some of the region's leading universities and colleges a team of 38 Aimhigher staff

support our programmes, working with hundreds of colleagues in schools, careers organisations, charities, and employers to inspire, inform and encourage young people to think about careers, higher education and apprenticeships.

Aimhigher <sup>Plus</sup>

### WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO:

Become motivated and confident about their learning and career progression

Explore the world of higher education and what it might mean for them

Make informed decisions about their future



### VIEW FROM THE TOP

"Higher education changes the life chances of students, strengthens our economy and enriches everyone in our society. Aimhigher helps to ensure that young people with the potential to benefit from higher education have the opportunity to do so, regardless of their background.

This review celebrates the achievements of some of the people we worked with in 2017, and acknowledges the support of our many staff and partners who, by working together, make Aimhigher in the West Midlands possible. Thank you for your dedication and commitment."

**Professor Kathleen Armour,  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
(Education)**

The University of Birmingham  
and Chair, Aimhigher  
West Midlands





## WHAT DO WE DO?

We provide a vast range of activities to help young people explore higher education and how it might help to fulfil their career ambitions. Every week hundreds

of young people benefit from our work, exploring campuses, working with academics and being mentored by current and former university students.



Kate Hanmer, Aimhigher Progression Ambassador at Balaam Wood School in Birmingham

"Kate's powerful presence has captured some of our hard to reach parents."

Damian McGarvey, Headteacher, Balaam Wood School

## AIMHIGHER WORKS!

Our research shows that the students we work with have more aspirational career plans and are more motivated to succeed. Aimhigher students from Pupil Premium backgrounds achieve better GCSE outcomes than those

we have not supported, and that by the age of 18 are twice as likely to enter higher education than young people from similarly disadvantaged backgrounds.



Alex Gardner, Aimhigher Progression Ambassador at CTC Kinghurst Academy

"I learned better strategies for revising. I'm not confused any more and I'm confident about my GCSEs"

Year 10 student, Wheelers Lane Technology College

"Students of all ages and abilities have warmed to Alex. His support for some Year 13 students who were struggling with confidence and motivation has transformed their planning, and all bar three of them have now applied to university, with other deciding to apply for apprenticeships instead."

Richard Jones, Vice Principal CTC Kinghurst Academy



## THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

## IN 2017 WE:

WORKED WITH  
**134**  
REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

SUPPORTED OVER  
**5000**  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND...

**1500**  
PARENT/CARERS

DELIVERED **8** RESIDENTIAL SUMMER SCHOOLS FOR OVER **350** STUDENTS

Our summer schools provided an immersive and exciting opportunity to live and work as a student at one of 6 leading universities. Lasting up to 3 days, our summer schools inspire, motivate and inform aspirations.

"It's shown me that higher education is for people like me, and that I will be able to achieve it"

Year 10 student, Waverley School

"The whole experience helped me decide and consolidate what to do in the future."

Year 10 student, Abraham Darby Academy

Working with our mentors and Progression Ambassadors makes young people more confident and effective in their learning, and more aspirant and informed in their career and progression planning.

ENABLED  
**134**  
UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE MENTORS

TO SUPPORT  
**1403**  
STUDENTS



"The scheme has been very beneficial, I'm a lot less nervous about going to college and I now think I have the confidence to go to university."

Year 10 student, Bournville School





## GIVING SOMETHING BACK...



Lewis Hickman is Aimhigher's Progression Adviser at Bartley Green School, which he himself attended before studying Drama at university.

"Building a rapport with pupils and seeing them respond and be passionate about their future is the best thing about the job."

DELIVERED OVER **1800** ACTIVITIES INCLUDING: **53** MASTERCLASSES FOR **635** STUDENTS

**20** CAMPUS VISITS FOR OVER **1230** STUDENTS

**262** INFORMATION ADVANCE AND GUIDANCE EVENTS FOR OVER **13560** STUDENTS AND PARENTS

**35** CONFERENCES SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY HUNDREDS OF TEACHERS AND CAREERS ADVISERS  
**13000+** UNIQUE VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE  
 OUR TWITTER ACCOUNT AND FORTNIGHTLY E-BULLETINS AND BRIEFINGS ACCESSED BY OVER **1800** EDUCATION AND CAREERS PROFESSIONALS  
 WHERE OUR FILMS WERE VIEWED OVER **3500** TIMES

"Aimhigher has enabled us to support pupils in finding out more about higher education and the exciting opportunities available to motivated young people."

Lee Gray, Headteacher, Studley High School

"A very useful conference... I found all of it interesting and valuable"

## HIGHLIGHTS AND FUTURE PLANS



### A WORLD OF STEM

In June 2017 our World of STEM event gave **495** Year 9 students the chance to meet over **30** major science, technology and engineering employers, work with leading academics and have a hands-on experience of world-leading scientific research.



### MY TUTOR

2017 saw the start of an exciting partnership with My Tutor, an online platform where tutors and students can talk, share documents and use interactive resources to reinforce learning and solve problems together.

My Tutor students make an average of **1.2 grades** additional progress, an opportunity we aim to make available to over **450** young in the coming year.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

2017 SAW SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT AND 2018 WILL SEE US LAUNCH MANY NEW AND EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS:

- A partnership with the Speakers Trust, giving over **2,400** young people a chance to unlock their potential through the power of communication
- An on-line and telephone advice service, in partnership with The Access Project
- Aimhigher Roadshows, taking advice on higher education into communities, schools and colleges across the West Midlands
- A Cultural Capital Programme, giving young people the chance to experience the world beyond their horizon
- A Vocational Transition Programme to allow students to explore post-16 career pathways
- A Careers Zone at The Big Bang Fair, the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people.

## CONTACT US

For more information about Aimhigher  
visit our website: [www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk](http://www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk)

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Or telephone: 0121 415 8176

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