



# THE YEAR IN BRIEF



Part of the  
National Collaborative  
Outreach Programme

20 | 18





# 2018... THE YEAR IN BRIEF...

## 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 2018, 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

## 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 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.

## 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

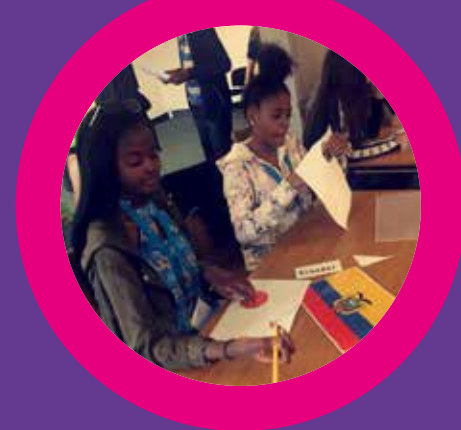
## WE PROVIDE

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.

## IT 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.

In 2016/17, 24.8% of Aimhigher students (POLAR quintile 1) progressed to higher education compared to 13.3% of disadvantaged students in the West Midlands.



## IN 2018 WE:

WORKED WITH  
**153**  
REGIONAL SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

SUPPORTED  
**7545**  
YOUNG PEOPLE

AND  
**1245**  
PARENT/CARERS

DELIVERED **12** RESIDENTIAL SUMMER SCHOOLS FOR **357** STUDENTS

Our summer schools provide an immersive and exciting opportunity to live as a student at one of 6 leading universities. Lasting up to 3 days, summer schools inspire, motivate and inform young people across the West Midlands.

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.

"The mentoring scheme has helped me think about my future education and job opportunities"

"It has helped me know what to expect in the future and how to approach it"

After Unifest, 79% of participants felt they knew enough about university to decide whether or not to go

ENABLED  
**126**  
UNDERGRADUATE AND  
GRADUATE MENTORS

TO SUPPORT  
**2760**  
STUDENTS



DELIVERED OVER **1159** ACTIVITIES INCLUDING: **291** MASTER CLASSES FOR **17581** STUDENTS

**110** CAMPUS VISITS FOR OVER **3140** STUDENTS

ENGAGED  
**398**  
STUDENTS WITH THE  
MYTUTOR PROGRAMME

**671** INFORMATION ADVISE AND GUIDANCE EVENTS FOR OVER **44476** STUDENTS & PARENTS

WE SET UP AN  
INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT TO  
KEEP STUDENTS,  
TEACHERS AND PARENTS  
INFORMED  
@AIMHIGHERPLUS

**1111** TWITTER FOLLOWERS

**966** MAIL SUBSCRIBERS CHIMP ACTIVITY UPDATES

**269000** VIEWS ON OUR AIMHIGHER FILM - YOUTUBE





# HIGHLIGHTS

## SPEAKERS TRUST

The "Speak Out" Challenge is designed to build confidence, enabling young people from all walks of life to speak with clarity, conviction and impact. In 2018, Aimhigher enabled more than 1500 year 10 students to take part in the "Speak Out" oracy challenge which culminated with the first ever West Midlands' final in June. We cannot wait to see what the finalists bring to the stage in 2019!

On average, year 11 Aimhigher pupils with a full term of tutoring in GCSE maths made over 2x the progress and achieved a 0.6 grade increase against non-tutored pupils.

## MYTUTOR

MyTutor is an online platform where tutors and students can talk, share documents and use interactive resources to reinforce learning and solve problems together. In 2018, 398 students from Aimhigher schools took part in the tutoring programme.

## REVISION WEEKEND

In February 2018, 53 year 11 students took part in a Revision Weekend in Shropshire. Over 3 days the students learnt new study skills and pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones.

## The view from parents:

"The weekend has changed how he looks at revision. Before he lacked enthusiasm but now he wants to do well in his exams. He's already completed all his homework which he would never have done before!"

"Speaking and listening is now a separate qualification from GCSE so I was really interested to get involved with Speakers Trust, and it has been a privilege for all the students to work on the programme."

Teacher, Grace Academy Solihull



## CULTURAL CAPITAL

Research shows that cultural capital affects the likelihood of participation in higher education. In 2018 over 100 students visited London, Manchester or Bournemouth to explore what student life is like outside of the West Midlands. As part of the visits young people aged 14-18 explored museums, theatres, football stadia and other universities. For many this was the first time they had left their town, got on a train or watched a live performance.

# FUTURE PLANS

## YOU SAID, WE DID!

For the academic year 2019/20, Aimhigher will be mapping activities against Gatsby Benchmarks to show how being involved with our programmes can support and improve the careers guidance that Ofsted requires schools and colleges to provide.

Aimhigher's Annual Teachers & Advisers' Conference will take place on Thursday 4 July 2019 at Aston University.  
Email [Aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:Aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk) to book your free place.

## GET INVOLVED

See all of the activities Aimhigher have on offer at [aimhigherwm.ac.uk/search-for-activities/](http://aimhigherwm.ac.uk/search-for-activities/) make sure you type in your school or college name to gain full access to targeted events!

"It's so rewarding to see how much both pupils and staff alike can engage with Aimhigher activities: I hope students feel supported the same way they support us in our activities."

Daviann, Assistant Outreach Officer



## STAFF

"The students have access to a wealth of information and high-quality events. We absolutely believe in the programme and we are 100% committed."

Senior Assistant Headteacher

## STUDENTS

"I am now certain I want to go to university"

"Aimhigher has shown me that Higher Education is for people like me"

## TEACHERS

"Aimhigher Plus fosters engagement through a range of experiences that students wouldn't otherwise have access to. The range of activities and experiences on offer helps students to clarify their thinking in terms of the next steps in their education and longer term employment."

"Aimhigher compliments the messages that are promoted through the curriculum. Furthermore, it chimes with the messages that are outlined in the government's national strategy for careers."

## PARENTS

"My Daughter came home with loads of stories about the great experience she had. She has made some new friends and is full of enthusiasm"

## CONTACT US

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

Email us: [aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

Or telephone: 0121 415 8310

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