



Taster Days - Open Days - Workshops - School Visits

# Sharing the results – The national review of university guidance in schools and colleges

Jon Cheek, Director, UniTasterDays Ltd

In collaboration with:



Member organisation:



# Who is this guy?



## Jon Cheek

- Director of UniTasterDays
- Previously worked at three universities
- Now working with schools UK-wide
- Email me – [Jon@unitasterdays.com](mailto:Jon@unitasterdays.com)

Member organisation:



UniTasterDays

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# What we do:

Launched in 2012 to connect schools with higher education institutions. Through UniTasterDays, universities can:

- Advertise events attracting bookings from school groups and/or individual students.
- Use technology to allow universities to list events on their own website.
- Provide a platform to provide university blog content for school teachers.
- Book our independent and engaging workshops to support school events.



# Firstly some thankyou's and credits...

## **Research and Evaluation Lead and partner for the project:**

- Matthew Horton, Widening Participation Research Manager at Aimhigher West Midlands

## **Steering group members:**

- Alex Baugh (University of Derby)
- Elliot Newstead (University of Leicester)
- Jasminne Gwalter (Plymouth College of Art)
- JJ Clark (University Centre Weston)
- Jo Ward (University of Cambridge)
- Kate Filimon (University of Huddersfield)
- Louise Meredith (University of Portsmouth)
- Matthew Skidmore (University College London)
- Phil Wagg (Staffordshire University)
- Sasha Leek (Bucks New University)
- Steve Knowles (Coventry University Scarborough)

## **A further thanks to, our lead at HELOA**

- Rebecca Hollington, HELOA UK Vice-Chair (Partnerships)

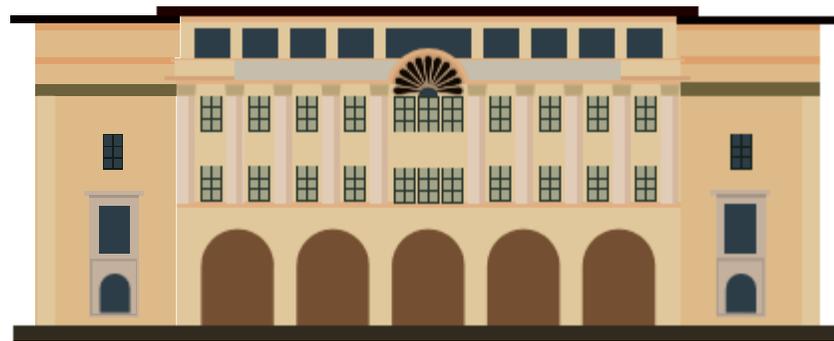


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# The background...

- The survey explored the university information, advice and guidance (IAG) provided to students whilst at secondary school and college.
- This is very timely. Careers in schools appears to be more on the agenda now than it has been for some time
- Opened on November 5th 2018 – and ran until 10 February 2019.
- c18% of schools responded (745 respondents)



# What do schools need to do?

Awareness of how the Gatsby Benchmarks relate to higher education.

The Gatsby benchmarks relating to higher education specify that:

- *By the age of 16, every pupil should have had a meaningful encounter with a provider of the full range of learning opportunities.*
- *By the age of 18, all students who are considering applying for university should have had at least two visits to universities to meet staff and students*



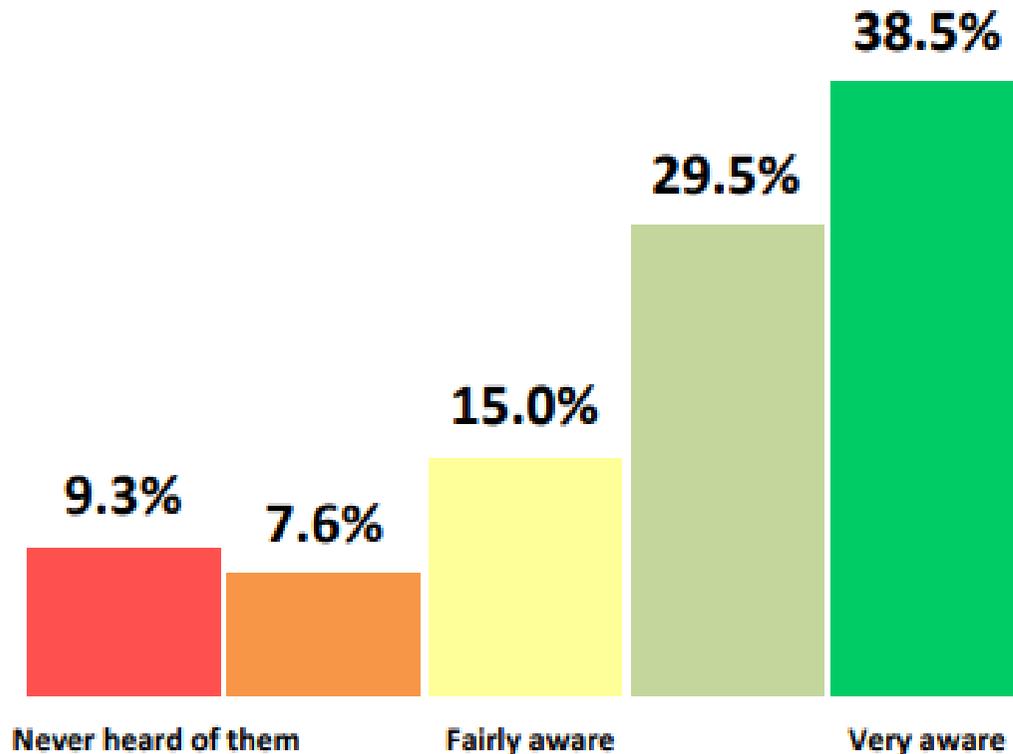
# Gatsby Benchmarks

Please rank your understanding of the Gatsby benchmarks - and how they relate to university: \*

1	2	3	4	5
Never heard of them		Fairly aware		Very aware



# Gatsby Benchmark Awareness (in England)



68% of schools are **aware** or **very aware** of the university aspects of the Gatsby benchmarks.

*“Greater funding to give staff the release time to do this properly- the Gatsby benchmarks come with NO additional funding for schools which is ludicrous and just adds to staff workload again.”*



# When is higher education engagement starting?

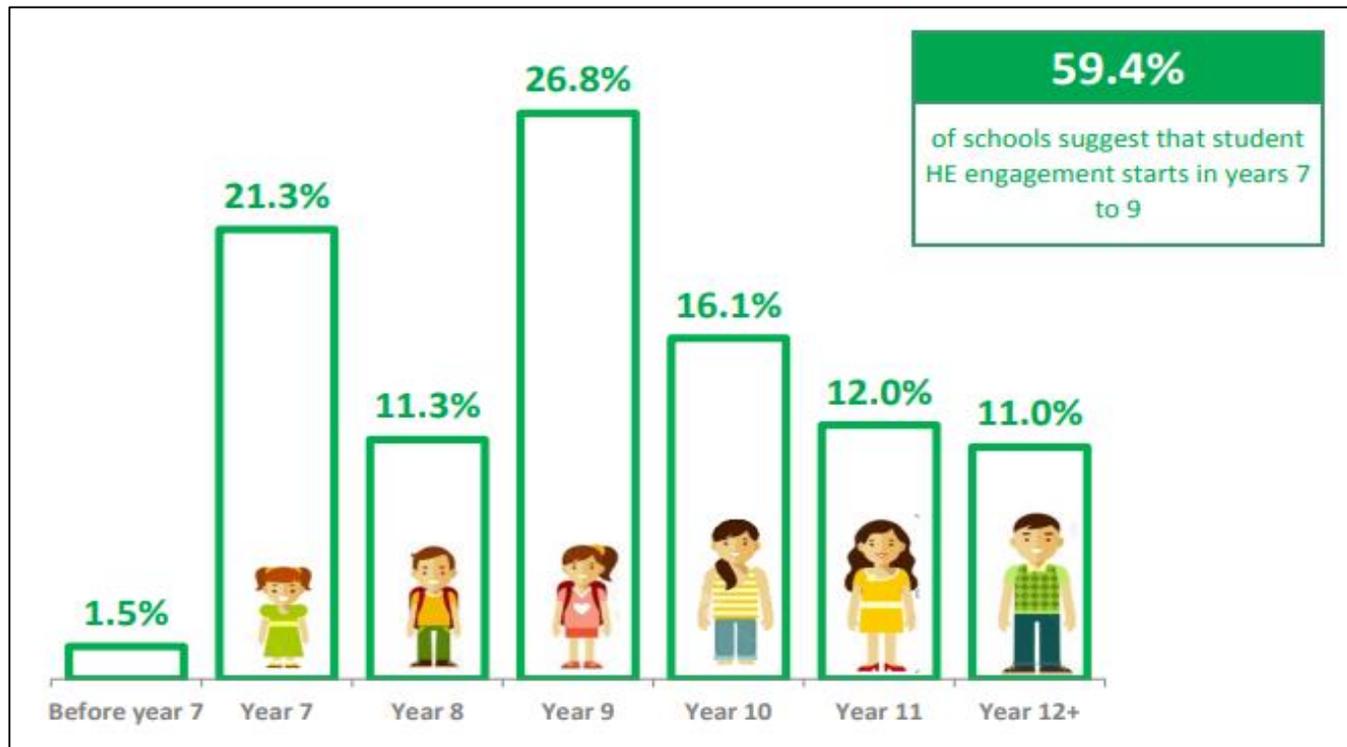
Recent reports have stated university guidance should be starting in primary schools so we wanted to explore when it currently was.

Quite simply – we asked schools (colleges excluded) when their university guidance was starting.



# When is higher education engagement starting?

“There should be more involvement from universities from the early years ... starting from year 6 to raise aspirations and inspire students to move on to university.”



“It would be great if our nearest higher education provider offered stuff before Year 10, but they have cut back on all bespoke provision. It's their way or the highway.”



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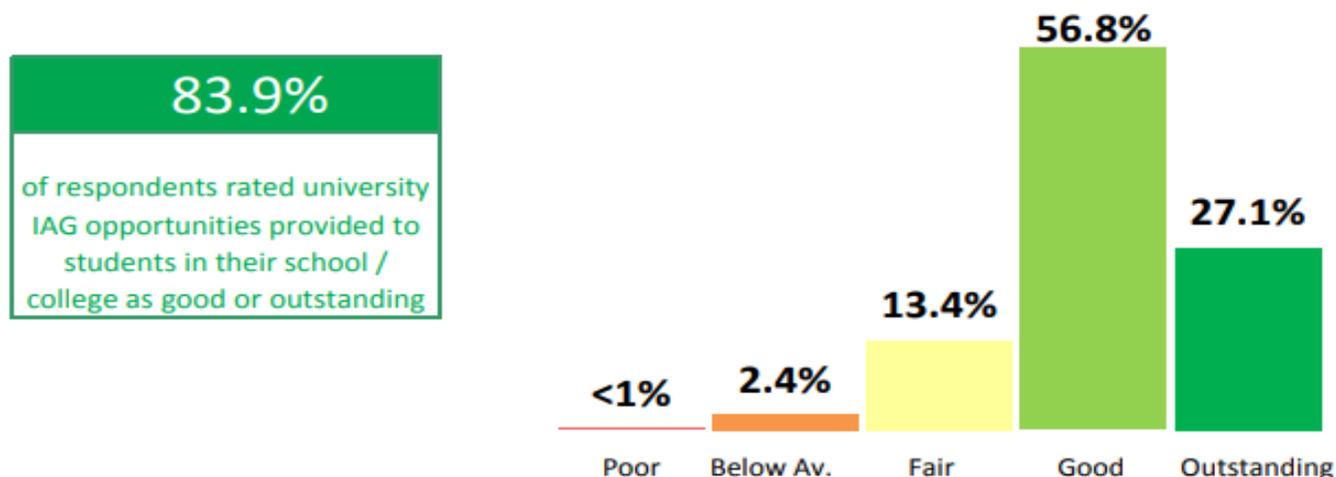
# The quality of university guidance

Overall how would you rate the university information, advice, guidance and opportunities provided to students at your school or college?



# The quality of university information, advice and guidance in schools and colleges

Schools and colleges consider the university information, advice and guidance in their school or college to be generally positive, with 84% stating this was either good or excellent.



“We have excellent partnership links with a variety of universities. I feel very supported by the higher education sector in my role.”



# The quality of university information, advice and guidance in schools and colleges (by school type)

By school type	% with good / outstanding IAG
LA Maintained Schools	79.4%
Academies, Free schools & UTC's	83.7%
Colleges	81.8%
Independent Schools	94.5%

95% of independent schools stated they provided a good or excellent level of university guidance for students. Compared to 79% of schools, 84% of Academies, Free Schools and UTC's and 82% of colleges. The North West is roughly around the average regionally (83.6% across all institution types)



# Barriers to accessing university events

Does your school or college experience any of the following barriers in accessing university events?

**Please tick all that apply \* \***

Choose as many as you like

- A Senior leadership may not support activities during curriculum time
- B No one in the school is responsible for arranging university events
- C There is no time for staff members to organise university activities
- D There is a lack of funds to cover transport costs for university visits
- E There is a lack of funds to book external organisations to deliver events
- F There is a lack of university outreach activities in our area
- G I would not know how to organise a university event
- H There is a lack of information on the university opportunities available
- I We do not engage in outreach activities as too few students are likely to have the grades required to progress to university
- J We do not engage in outreach activities as too few students have an interest in progressing to university



# Barriers to accessing university events

14 → Does your school or college experience any of the following barriers in accessing university events?



**57.6%**

stated a barrier was a lack of funds to cover transport costs for university visits

**40.5%**

stated a barrier was a lack of funds to book external organisations to deliver events

**32.9%**

stated a barrier was a lack of staff time to organise university activities

**30.2%**

stated a barrier was SLT not supporting activities during curriculum time

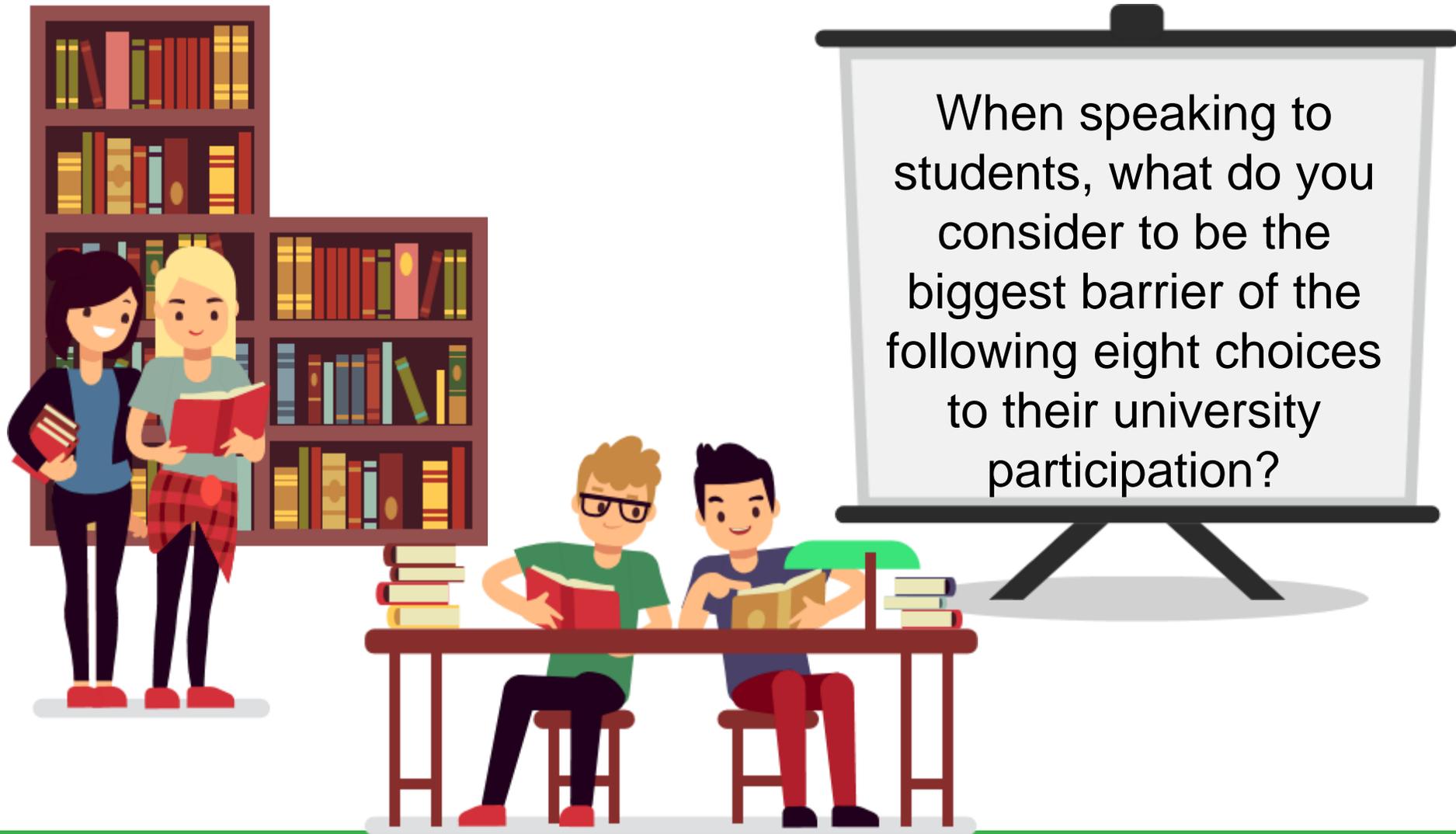
*“ Finance is definitely a barrier to visits. We approached four universities to see if they would fund the transport for a university visit and only one offered to fund the trip. ”*



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# Student barriers to higher education?



When speaking to students, what do you consider to be the biggest barrier of the following eight choices to their university participation?



# Barriers...

When speaking to students, what do you consider to be the biggest barrier of these eight choices to their university participation? What do you think?

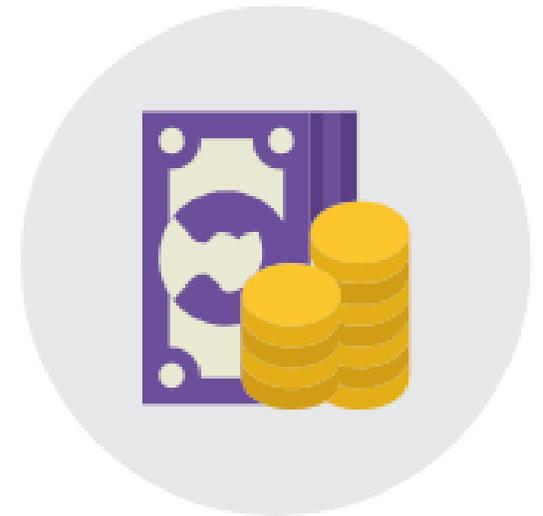
1. Tuition Fees
2. Living Costs
3. Their academic ability
4. Family have no HE experience
5. Lack of university IAG provided
6. University not required for career
7. Lack of university aspiration
8. A feeling university isn't for them
9. No idea!
10. Still no idea!



# Student barriers to accessing university IAG

Almost half (49%) of staff reported that students were most concerned about the costs of **university tuition fees** and they considered this their greatest barrier to higher education.

The second highest was financial again – with 14% of respondents advising that the second greatest barrier to higher education participation were concerns relating to the **cost of living at university**.





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# THANK YOU

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