May 2024

Impact Report



FUTURE QUEST



Introduction

Future Quest is the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Uni Connect partnership. Formed in 2017, our goal is to increase the progression rates of underrepresented learners to higher education and meaningful employment. We take an innovative approach to outreach, focusing on exposing young people to their future possible selves.

This report showcases the work we carry out and the impact it has had on young people since we began. A lot has changed since 2017 but our main aim has remained the same: to help young people build the knowledge, skills and self-belief they need to access future education and employment.

Visit our website:
www.futurequest.org.uk



Contents

03-04
Welcome

05-06
Our project

07-08
Values and approach

09-10
The last 7 years

11-12
Secondary & college

13-14
Primary

15-16
Thomas’s story

17-18
Thank you

Our Project

Future Quest was set up in 2017 to combat educational inequality for young people in the region. The Bristol area presents a complex picture of skills progression within the city and surrounding region which reflects some of the biggest contrasts in the UK.

We deliver bespoke activities in over 75 schools and colleges in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. We work with educational communities to understand young people's needs and use our creative framework to provide activities across four themes:

Discover · Explore · Plan · Become



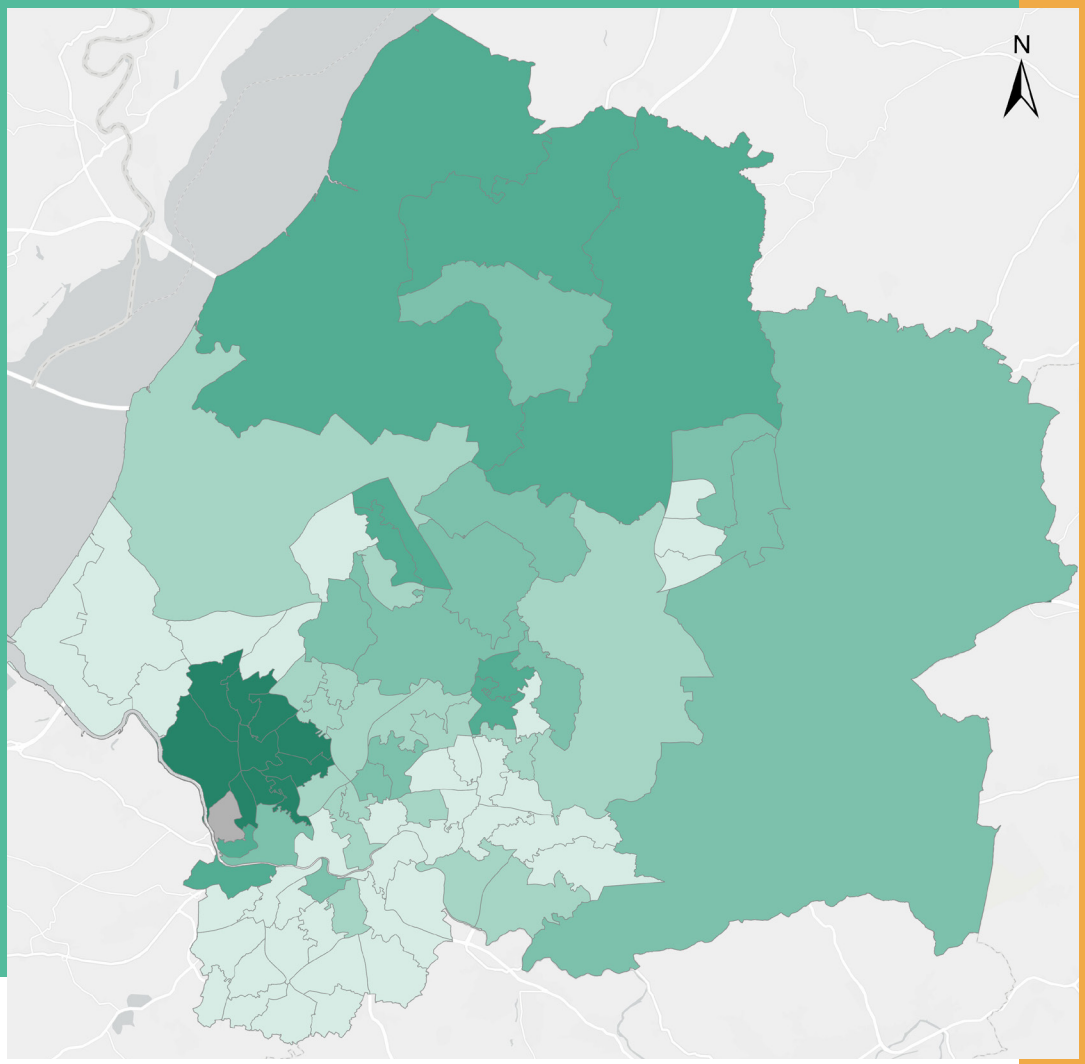
These themes build progressive, connected packages of outreach which can be timetabled into the academic year. We have worked with experts to create tailored coaching, mentoring and guidance for target groups.

Each activity package is unique to the institution or group that it is delivered to and much of it is developed in collaboration with higher education academic staff and students as well as employers.

Education in Bristol

Bristol is one of the most unequal cities in England for educational outcomes. We have some of the highest progression rates to higher education (Clifton, 100%) and the lowest (Hartcliffe & Withywood, 8.6%)[1]. Where a young person lives could mean a difference of a grade and a half at GCSE.

We focus our work on schools with high numbers of students from low-progression neighbourhoods. The map below shows how progession rates differ across our region.



Quintile 1
(Lowest progression rates)

Quintile 5
(Highest progression rates)

[1] https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/

Values and Approach

Our values, approach and goals are at the core of every part of how we operate. Through our work we enable young people to connect with their future selves and give them the opportunities to become the best version of themselves.

Our mission is to equip all young people with the tools to create their own futures by building relationships and staying with them on their journeys, championing their ambitions and encouraging them to set high expectations for themselves and their future educators and employers.

Our Values:

- Encouraging curiosity
- Embracing change
- Celebrating uniqueness
- Demonstrating courage
- Working in partnership
- Ensuring fairness

Asking young people what they want to do when they grow up is outdated and restrictive.

We should be asking them who they want to be.

Our minds are rarely set on a single direction, and our routes to get there are rarely straightforward.

Future Quest is about the journey to the future: celebrating the wiggly pathways, finding ourselves and our purpose along the way, whilst having the support needed for the ride.



The last 7 years

We have been working hard since we started in 2017. Take a look at what we've been doing...

Over
40,000
individual students engaged

86
primary schools, secondary schools and colleges

Over
90,000
interactions with students across Bristol and South Gloucestershire

Over
4,000
young people have visited a UWE campus

Over
5,000
activities, workshops and assemblies delivered



> They really helped me answer questions and created a safe space to ask any questions no matter how silly. They also provided extra support in the uni application process and gave me resources and links! With their help I feel more secure and sure if my decisions in terms of which uni, accommodation or uni life in general.
>
> *Year 12 student, Skills Pathways Workshop*

Secondary & College

Our students are given opportunities to engage in a variety of workshops, assemblies, small group tasks and 1-1 interactions aimed at closing the gap in higher education participation through subject specific content or access to Higher Education and skills

Some of our sessions...



Assemblies
9756
students



Character Strengths
977
students



Mentoring
1434
students

> When I started Future Quest I was a 'maybe' about university. However, when I finished, I was a definite yes. Some people said it would be a waste of time. However, I realised it would help me get the knowledge and skills I need for the future, when hopefully I will run my own marketing business.

Future Quest Healthcare

Future Quest Healthcare began in 2021. This partnership with NHS England supports students to explore their options in healthcare, plan their pathway and realise their future potential through activities, information, and support.

Our Healthcare sessions...

2453
students participated

76
activities

121
students visiting UWE campus



Future Quest Primary

In 2021 we expanded our outreach offer to include children at local primary schools.

Future Quest's Primary programme focuses on the delivery of a variety of projects to children aged 7-11. Since they began, these sessions and opportunities have supported young people to engage, meet role models and find out more about themselves and future possibilities.



The Book Explorers project has been absolutely fantastic. The children have found it fascinating to speak to adults who aren't their parents or a teacher and find out about their lives, and it has promoted some really positive conversations about university, aspiration and reading.

Teacher, Lyde Green Primary School

Primary Sessions

Here are some of the sessions we've produced in the last 3 years...

Book Explorers

During weekly sessions over a 5-week period, UWE Bristol student volunteers go into primary schools to read stories with a small group of children. The programme models possible selves by giving children the chance to find out more about the volunteers and think about their future potential.

Future Me

UWE Initial Teacher Education students are paired with a student from a different faculty to plan and deliver a hands-on session. The children meet role models, try different subjects and learn about the skills needed in different subjects and careers. Previous workshops include Architecture, Music Technology, Law and Fine Art.

Workshops, campus visits & assemblies

We have developed a selection of innovative play-based workshops in collaboration with experts at UWE Bristol focused on helping children understand their strengths and feel proud of their differences.



19
schools worked with



Over
9,000
children engaged



Over
200
activities

Thomas' Story



I'm Thomas and I chose to study BA(Hons) Accounting and Business Management at the UWE.

During my time in secondary education, I was invited to take part in a number of activity sessions facilitated by Future Quest. They were designed to ease me and my cohort into the idea of going to university but also helping us to develop as individuals by strengthening our core communication skills.

The two Future Quest activities I found most useful to my future were the public speaking activity and my several visits to UWE's Frenchay campus in Year 9. During the public speaking I was a bit scared to begin with as I wasn't very good at talking to strangers but by the end, I felt a lot more confident. I improved on the ability to speak to strangers, navigation skills, and general confidence in making decisions through these workshops. They gave me the comfort to decide UWE was the place for me to study but also allowed me to overcome my neurodivergence by giving me experience talking in public with likeminded peers and strangers alike.

When choosing what to study, I was panicking like many students do as I was going through the UCAS process, but it became clear later down the line that for me the best route would be to follow my skill set so I decided to choose my course based off of my highest-grade GCSE, that being business management.

If I were to give you one piece of advice when making decisions for your future is do some research into your personal interests and potential job routes you could take. Although accounting is associated with high pay cheques it is also a very diverse industry that has its hand in mostly every other global industry in the world, be it on behalf of the businesses themselves or helping governments to ensure people and businesses are paying their fair share of tax. At the end of the day, it's your future you're looking at as well so keep that in mind so put yourself first if possible and try to enjoy your time whether university is for you, or you'd prefer another route.

Thank you!

We would like to thank the organisations who have been involved with Future Quest and our work over the years.

Ablaze
Active Leaders
Antarctic Fire Angels
Arnolfini
BIMM
Brightside
Bristol Achieve
Bristol City Council
Bristol Education Partnership
Bristol Learning City
Bristol Old Vic
Bristol Plays Music
Bristol Works
CareerPilot
Causeway Education
Careers Enterprise Company
Children's University
City of Bristol College
Curiosity Connections
dfp.TV
EDF
Engine Shed
Engineering Development Trust
FirstGens
Graphic Science
Grassroutes
Healthier Together
Heart Starters
HEAT
IDEAL Community Action
Inclusive Futures
Inspirational Friends
Inspire Sustainability
NEON
NHS England
NHS South West
Office for Students
Pharmacy Workforce Development South
Positively MAD
PUSH
SGS College
Social Mobility Pledge
South Bristol Youth
South Gloucestershire Council
TG Consulting LTD
The Brilliant Club
The Pay Index
University of Bath
University of Bristol
UWE Bristol
VINCI Building
We are DNA
West of England Combined Authority


UWE
Bristol
University
of the
West of
England


University of
BRISTOL


Office for
Students
ofs


NHS
England



FUTURE QUEST

University of the West of England Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QY

future.quest@uwe.ac.uk
www.futurequest.org.uk