A Summary Report

Inspiring a legacy for the future
Aimhigher activities...

Over the life of the Aimhigher project, hundreds of different activities were organised by the team for our target school, sixth form and college students - the following is just a small representative selection from the last three years.

Archaeology fieldwork (HEFA)

These Higher Education Field Academies were undoubtedly amongst our most popular activities. For six years running, pupils from schools across Norfolk enjoyed a taste of field work at higher education level by participating in a number of archaeology digs. They had the support of their Aimhigher Officers, Student Ambassadors, school teachers, and members of the Archaeology Team at Cambridge University, led by Carenza Lewis from Channel 4’s Time Team.

The field work spanned two days excavating finds and learning how to record findings, followed by a third day at Cambridge University. Student Ambassadors from Universities and HE colleges across Norfolk were assigned to provide support and encouragement over the digs, as well as being on hand to answer questions about what it’s like to study at HE Level.

Outcomes

Students gained an awareness of archaeology as a career; the chance to develop a range of skills for HE preparation such as report writing, team work, analysing and recording, and communication; first hand experience of the university environment at Cambridge.

MY AIMHIGHER - ROB CULLEN

Rob Cullen, a first year medical student at Nottingham University and former pupil at Fakenham High School, explains below how his experience with Aimhigher, which started with an archaeology HEFA, influenced his success.

“...My first contact with Aimhigher was at the age of 15 when I took part in the HEFA project. After that I knew HE was for me. I also visited UEA with my parents around this time - the first time any of us had ever been to a university. Up to then I had wanted to be either a teacher or an accountant - probably because the only people I knew who had been to university were either teachers or accountants! Aimhigher showed me that there were many more courses out there and gave me the confidence to apply for medicine, a competitive subject. The Application Masterclass clearly helped me to refine my personal statement and gave me an edge because I got three offers from medical schools.

I have seen how without support people can fall outside the radar and never fulfill their potential, so it is something that I fundamentally believe in. I am a Campus Ambassador for my university and I often work at Widening Participation events.

Rob Cullen, now a first year medical student at the University of Nottingham