

# SCHOOLS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME

**The South East Forum's Schools for Higher Education Programme provides support in 19 schools across the South East of Scotland that have low progression rates to higher education. This includes nine schools in Edinburgh city, one in Midlothian, three in West Lothian, two in the Scottish Borders, two in Clackmannanshire, one in Stirling and one in Falkirk.**

The main aim of the programme is to support school pupils, raise expectations and aspirations, and increase staying on rates and progression rates to higher education, both to college and to university. The vision of the programme is to help pupils to recognise and achieve their own potential.

The programme targets the following pupils:

- Young people with the potential to achieve higher education entry, but who are at risk of not achieving this potential
- Young people who do not recognize their potential for progression to higher education.



[www.southeastscotlandforum.ac.uk](http://www.southeastscotlandforum.ac.uk)

## ACTIVITIES ON OFFER

The Schools for Higher Education Programme offers a full programme of activities to targeted pupils from S3–S6, to help them both consider the opportunities that higher education can bring and prepare them for studying at this level. Activities offered are a mixture of school-based workshops, college and university campus-based activities, and conferences. These are supported by student volunteers who are studying higher education at college and university.

### ACTIVITIES OFFERED INCLUDE:

#### **S3** 'It's okay not to know school' workshop

An introductory fun workshop to introduce the process of entering post-school education gently.

#### **S3** The campus reporter

An event delivered on a college or university campus where pupils, accompanied by a student volunteer, explore with a film camera and produce a news report on their findings.

#### **S4** Course, qualifications and careers workshop

A school-based workshop to increase pupils' awareness of qualifications and routes into higher education in both college and university. Student volunteers are on hand to provide support and guidance.

#### **S4** School college programme

A programme that provides pupils with opportunities to visit colleges and take part in subject tasters to motivate, enthuse and raise awareness of college. It is delivered over a number of weeks and supported by student volunteers.

#### **S5** Student conference

An event delivered on a college or university campus, focusing on study skills, how to choose a suitable course, and giving insight into student life inside and out of the classroom.

# WHAT'S YOUR POTENTIAL?

#### **S5** The typical student week

A school-based workshop delivered with student volunteers to give pupils a fuller idea of what a student life might be like while studying at higher education.

#### **S6** Getting by on a student budget

A school-based workshop which provides practical advice on finance. This is supported by student volunteers, using real life examples and case studies.

#### **S6** Conference

This takes place on a college or university campus and provides pupils the opportunity to attend student-led workshops on social opportunities, and attend presentations on how to apply for student finance.

#### **S6** Pre-application interviews

Students are offered an interview before they make an application to any course. This provides advice, guidance and information on courses and on how to make the most of their application, and follow-up support is provided if needed.

#### **S6** Art portfolio evening

In partnership with Edinburgh College of Art, students wishing to apply for design courses are provided with teaching support on portfolio preparation over a term.

#### Summer School

This is a degree-level course for pupils who have a conditional offer at a university. Approximately seven weeks long, it helps prepare pupils for university and allows them the opportunity to demonstrate to admissions staff they have what it takes to get into the course they want.

#### Information events for parents

Information, advice and guidance is offered to parents and guardians to ensure they are fully informed of higher education and all the options available to their child post-school.

#### SHEP film

A short introductory film to encourage participation and enthuse pupils, parents and staff with the opportunities provided by higher education in college and university.

#### ENHANCED SUPPORT

The South East Forum also offers enhanced support to schools with the lowest progression rates to higher education (15% below). A dedicated Development Worker provides one-to-one mentoring support to pupils along with additional information, guidance and support to parents and staff.



**South East Forum**  
widening access to  
college and university

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