
IntoUniversity works with universities to provide local learning centres where young people are inspired to achieve.

IntoUniversity Salford Central
Annual Report

Prepared for
The University of Salford

2022/23

IntoUniversity 

Chief Executive Introduction



Dr Rachel Carr OBE

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the University of Salford for its support and collaboration with **IntoUniversity**. I am pleased to present this report, detailing the performance of **IntoUniversity** Salford Central for 2022/23, and highlighting the transformative impact our partnership is having in the community.

The 2022/23 academic year represented our 20th as an organisation. It was a chance for us to reflect on how far we've come and to celebrate the achievements of the many thousands of young people who have been with us on the **IntoUniversity** journey over the last twenty years. It was also a reminder of how much we've benefitted from the crucial support of dedicated and engaged partners such as yourselves, without which none of our work would be possible.

Our collaborative work has become ever more important as the long-term impacts of the pandemic are becoming increasingly clear, in particular on those from the least advantaged backgrounds. The educational challenges following the pandemic are not going away for our young people; it is crucial that we continue to work with our partners to ensure that our support remains impactful and that we adapt where necessary to meet emerging challenges and opportunities.

IntoUniversity centres across the UK have supported over 52,000 young people this year to discover their focus and passion for learning, develop essential academic capabilities and soft skills, and access the information and advice to help them thrive throughout their educational journey. We were delighted to launch four new centres this year in Salford, Hull, Great Yarmouth and Peterborough, growing our impactful network of universities, schools and employers into new communities to further our joint mission: to ensure that every young person is given the opportunity to succeed, whether through Higher Education or another chosen aspiration.

As part of the **IntoUniversity** network, you are impacting the lives of tens of thousands of young people across the UK. We are exceptionally grateful for the generous support of the University of Salford, and we look forward in the years ahead to continuing our partnership with you to expand young people's horizons. Together we are making a real difference in helping to create a fair and more socially-mobile society in the UK.

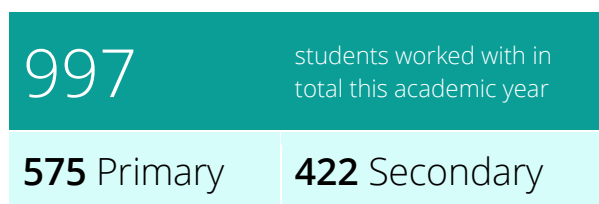
On behalf of the children and young people in Salford who benefit from our partnership, thank you.

Chief Executive Officer
IntoUniversity

Contents	2	Executive Summary	10	Upper Secondary	17	20 Years of IntoUniversity
	3	IntoUniversity and the University of Salford	12	FOCUS	20	Programme Outputs
	4	Academic Support	14	Mentoring	21	Higher Education Progression
	6	Primary FOCUS		Additional Programmes	23	OMR Evaluations
	8	Lower Secondary FOCUS	16	Factors affecting progression to Higher Education	25	Case Study
					26	Photo Gallery

Executive Summary

IntoUniversity Salford Central opened its doors in autumn 2022 and we are delighted that the centre has supported over 950 students in its first year of operation. The team has worked hard to recruit students to Academic Support, establish partnerships with local Primary and Secondary schools, and run programmes in the holidays for students in the community.



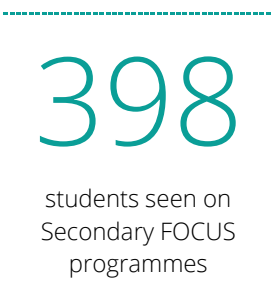
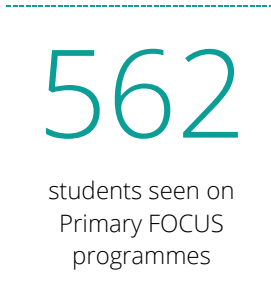
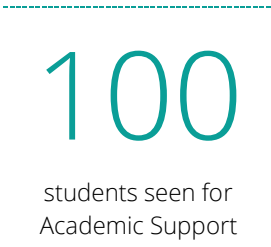
Salford Central H.E. progression rate



IntoUniversity nationwide H.E. progression rate



*Estimated % of all maintained school pupils who entered H.E. by age 19 (2019/20) – the most recent year of comparable grade boundaries



IntoUniversity and the University of Salford

Town / city of IntoUniversity student	IntoUniversity students starting at the University of Salford in autumn 2023
Leeds	7
Liverpool	1
London	2
Manchester	5
Newcastle	1
Salford	5
Weston-super-Mare	1
Total	22*

* These represent the number of students whom we know have started their first year of study at the University of Salford in 2023.



A University of Salford volunteer's perspective

Timi, a Biomedical Science student at the University of Salford, shared his experiences of volunteering as a mentor with IntoUniversity. Timi took part in workshops with IntoUniversity North Liverpool when he was at Secondary school.

'It had never occurred to me to volunteer until results day when I got a call from IntoUniversity asking if I'd like to help out in the Salford centre. When I was in Secondary school, I worked with IntoUniversity.

My best memory was when my

mentee came in and she had a Science test the next week. She had been working on acids and alkalis in class and I explained it to her. In our next meeting, she said that after I explained it, she actually understood it! I enjoy the interactions that I have with my mentee and seeing the impact I am having. When we first started, she said she wanted to improve her communication skills, which we've been working on.

The skills I have gained since volunteering with IntoUniversity include being more responsible, and having better time-

management and planning skills. For example, I supported my mentee in researching her options, and what subjects she would need to take to study those options at university.

I would definitely recommend volunteering with IntoUniversity - it can be challenging but it's a very rewarding thing to be a part of. The meetings aren't all the same and you'll be doing different things every week. I volunteer because I like to think I am helping someone else the same way that I was helped before.'

Academic Support

IntoUniversity staff provide sessions of structured academic study after school. The sessions raise attainment, encourage young people to become active, independent learners and help them to develop effective study skills. Students have access to essential resources that they may not have at home such as books, university prospectuses and computers.

Which age groups?

Years 3-13

What is the programme?

Students receive help with homework, coursework, revision and university applications. They are supported to complete their academic work to a high standard and on time.

Primary students may also study our tailored, termly curriculum which is based on university degree subjects. Each 'degree' covers key National Curriculum numeracy and literacy learning objectives.

Secondary students may also complete projects as part of the 'Future Readiness Award' where they develop the transferable skills necessary to become independent learners. This year, projects have included a presentation about transgender awareness and an anti-bullying campaign.

A Parent's Perspective

A parent from the **Into**University network shared her thoughts on why it is important for her child to attend Academic Support.

“I registered my son at **Into**University because I wanted him to have more structure after school and have access to Academic Support. He has something to keep him busy when school finishes and he gets exposure to a variety of topics. I also think it's great that he gets to mix with children from different schools and age groups. It gives him more people to look up to, coach him, and give him life experience. It's so great that you're local and in the community – I can walk here in just 20 minutes!

I love when **Into**University invites the families to join - I really love those days. I really enjoyed visiting a university with my son; I thought it was amazing for both me and him to understand what to expect if he does go onto Higher Education. The fact that you do this all for free is amazing – I wouldn't be able to do these things myself.

I would most definitely recommend **Into**University to other families. I would tell them that it's great for kids to try something new and that **Into**University gives them so much support. The sessions are really interesting and there's such a range of activities. My son wants to be a civil engineer. He loves building things and when he visited a university with **Into**University, he loved seeing all the engineering facilities. **Into**University gives him the confidence that he can achieve lots and stretch himself, and he can go to university.'



Centre	Academic Support	Number of students
Salford Central	Primary	70
	Secondary	30
	Holiday examination revision (students may also be attending term time Academic Support)	32
	Target number of students	75
	Actual number of students	100

Primary Academic Support ‘degrees’ and the modules covered in the 2022/23 academic year

Astronomy

- Space Race
- Space Investigation
- Life of an Astronaut

Anthropology

- Storytelling
- Community
- Languages

Nutrition

- Food Nutrition
- Food Business
- Food Science

<p>Programme Highlight</p> <p>As a part of the ‘Anthropology’ degree curriculum, Primary Academic Support students enjoyed taking part in a cultural show and tell. Students were encouraged to explore different cultures and how this may have an impact on the way people dance, tell and write stories. To rehearse their storytelling skills, students were asked to bring in one item that is important to them and represents their culture. This gave students the opportunity to display items proudly from their religions and cultures and ask each other respectful and inquisitive questions. IntoUniversity staff also took part and the students particularly enjoyed finding out they had many things in common with one another and the staff!</p>	<p>Student Evaluations</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: teal;">67%</p> <p>of IntoUniversity Salford Central students reported that they were working better at school as a result of Academic Support.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: teal;">85%</p> <p>of IntoUniversity Salford Central students reported improved teamwork as a result of Academic Support.</p> </div> </div>	<p>“ I have been coming to Academic Support since October last year and I have been really enjoying it. I like to attend because the staff are helpful and it helps me to get homework done on time. I have enjoyed getting to know other people and I have made friends. I now also have a mentor [from the University of Salford] and we have had a few sessions which were fun. I have just completed the Cocoa Bean Challenge and would like to have a go at another Future Readiness project to help me learn more about business.’</p> <p>A Year 7 Academic Support student IntoUniversity Salford Central</p>
---	---	---

Primary FOCUS

A structured programme which supports and enhances the National Curriculum and inspires students to think about their future education and the world of work. The programme raises students' aspirations and promotes essential skills such as teamwork and communication.

Which age groups?

Years 3-6

What is the programme?

In Years 3 and 4, workshops provide students with a hands-on introduction to different jobs and careers. These workshops are optional and are not delivered to all partner schools.

In Year 5, students participate in a 'What is a University?' workshop where they are familiarised with university life and learning. Year 5 students also spend a whole FOCUS Day themed on one particular curriculum area or topic chosen by their school.

In Year 6, students participate in a FOCUS Week of concentrated learning on a university degree subject. They are immersed in the topic through workshops and trips, and end the week with a graduation ceremony at a university. They also attend a 'Transition' workshop to aid them with the move from Primary to Secondary school.

Some students also have the opportunity to take part in the Holiday FOCUS programme.

A Teacher's Perspective

The headteacher at one of **IntoUniversity's** partner Primary schools shared some of her highlights of working with the organisation.

“Since starting their journey with **IntoUniversity**, our students speak about university as a viable and attainable option. The exposure that the Primary FOCUS programme has given them has helped to widen their horizons; the students in Year 5 and 6 now have detailed knowledge about university. They know what university involves and the steps they need to take to get there.

There is a group of Year 6 pupils who regularly attend **IntoUniversity's** Primary Academic Support and Holiday FOCUS programmes since being introduced to **IntoUniversity** during a FOCUS Week. We are seeing improved SATs results after working with **IntoUniversity** and the students' confidence has improved. Both parents and students talk about **IntoUniversity** very enthusiastically in school. The programmes broaden students' understanding about Further and Higher Education and careers. Our teachers say that the students have benefitted from learning about subjects and degree topics that they don't learn about in school, such as Criminology.

I would encourage other schools to participate in **IntoUniversity's** programmes. Aspiration is one of our school's core values and our partnership with **IntoUniversity** is helping us with this, as it is built into the programme. Our teachers feel supported before, throughout and after the workshops by **IntoUniversity** staff. More students are now viewing university as an achievable pathway. **IntoUniversity** makes students aware of the courses and options available to them after Secondary school, and our students are realising that their future options are not limited.'



Centre	School	Number of activities delivered to schools				
		Year 4	Year 5		Year 6	
		'Careers in Action' workshop	'What is a University?' workshop	FOCUS Day theme	FOCUS Week theme	'Transition' workshop
Salford Central	Lower Kersal Primary School	1	1	1 Astronomy	1 Creative Arts	1
	River View Primary School	2	2	2 Astronomy	2 World War II	2
	St George's Church of England Primary School	1	1	1 Engineering	1 World War II	1
	St Sebastian's Roman Catholic Primary School	1	1	1 Astronomy	1 World War II	/
	St. Boniface Roman Catholic Primary School	1	1	1 Zoology	1 Engineering	1
	Target number of students	350				
Actual number of students	562*					

*this includes a small number of Primary-aged students attending Holiday FOCUS.

<p>Trip Highlight</p> <p>As part of their 'Creative Arts' FOCUS Week, Year 6 students from Lower Kersal Primary School explored the exciting world of art, design and performance. Students had the opportunity to take part in two workshops delivered by staff and students from the University of Salford; these included exploring Henna art and understanding its cultural context, and performing a dance after learning choreography. Students particularly enjoyed the trip to Salford Museum and Art Gallery where they considered different paintings and colour palettes before creating their own versions of famous artworks. Throughout the week students got a real sense of the breadth of creative arts and every student finished the week having tried new and exciting activities.</p>	<p>Student Evaluations</p> <p>81% of IntoUniversity Salford Central students reported that they knew more about university as a result of Primary FOCUS.</p> <p>76% of IntoUniversity Salford Central students reported improved teamwork as a result of Primary FOCUS.</p>	<p>“ I was really impressed with the whole team at IntoUniversity. They are organised and enthusiastic and the children absolutely loved their time with you all. They learnt so much about how they might live as students and what they could get involved with - it was a joy to watch them get so excited about the different possibilities that the future could hold for them. The children loved their graduation and thinking about what it might be like to graduate from university in 10 years' time. They also massively benefitted from working as a team and working to a high standard with high expectations; lots of them produced work to the highest standard that I had ever seen from them and they were fully engaged throughout.'</p> <p>A Year 6 teacher St. Boniface Roman Catholic Primary School</p>
---	--	---

Lower Secondary

FOCUS

A series of workshops and trips that support students' learning and increase their knowledge of Higher Education, career opportunities and educational pathways. The programme increases motivation, strengthens aspiration and develops transferable skills such as adaptability, teamwork and communication.

Which age groups?

Years 7-11

What is the programme?

In Year 7, students focus on personal development targets and learn effective strategies for managing homework at Secondary school.

In Year 8, students explore different approaches to learning and understand how GCSE choices impact on future pathways.

In Year 9, students focus on connecting their current learning with post-school career possibilities and experience 'A Day of University Life'.

In Year 10, students learn about entrepreneurship and post-16 education options.

In Year 11, students focus on writing job applications and practice for interviews, and are prepared for independent life at university.

Some students also have the opportunity to take part in additional programmes including Holiday FOCUS, Business in FOCUS, Leadership in FOCUS and Careers in FOCUS. Please see pages 14 and 15 for more details.

A Teacher's Perspective

A Head of Careers at an **IntoUniversity** partner Secondary school shared her thoughts about working with charity.

“I believe **IntoUniversity** allows students to flourish in a way that they don't have the opportunity to in other environments. **IntoUniversity** gives students access to opportunities and experiences that staff at school wouldn't be able to provide. I have seen students grow in confidence and gain an improved knowledge of their future options.

There are a number of students I have seen develop through working with **IntoUniversity**. One student in particular is generally very quiet and reserved in school, but since working with **IntoUniversity** he has come out of his shell completely, with the opportunity to engage in practical and hands-on activities. There are lots of students who show quite challenging behaviour in school and may struggle academically, but **IntoUniversity** offers them a completely different space and chance to try new things. It allows staff to see students in a new light. **IntoUniversity** provides enrichment outside of the curriculum which is something that is so important, but as a teacher you're not always able to offer to students in lessons.

IntoUniversity is such an important way of opening up conversations with young people about their futures. Students who work with **IntoUniversity** also talk to peers, family and staff about their experiences, which has such a positive impact. The **IntoUniversity** programme offers students the chance to build confidence in making decisions and take ownership of their futures, which is so important.'



Centre	School	Number of activities delivered to schools	Number of students
Salford Central	The Albion Academy	12	160
	Buile Hill Academy	11	148
	Out-of-school support (students from multiple schools)	n/a	21
	Target number of students	120	
	Actual number of students	312*	

*please note that the number in the column total may be less than the sum of the individual rows, as students who took part in both in-school and out-of-school activities are only counted once towards the total.

Focus on Success workshops:

- Choosing Success
- Becoming an Independent Learner
- Maximising Memory: Revision and Learning Techniques
- Pathways to Success: Choosing Your Options
- Transferable Skills and Careers
- Introduction to University Life

Focus on Choices workshops:

- Entrepreneurship
- Communication in the Workplace
- Education Choices Beyond 16
- Higher Education Beyond 18
- A Day of University Life

Programme Highlight

During a 'Communication in the Workplace' workshop, Year 10 students from Buile Hill Academy participated in activities which developed their communication skills in preparation for future professional contexts. Working in groups, students learnt about, and collectively provided examples for, each stage of the STAR (situation, task, action, result) technique for interviews. Once students had practised this framework, they were much more confident when completing mock interviews.

Student Evaluations

80%

of IntoUniversity Salford Central students reported improved communication as a result of the 'Communication in the Workplace' workshop.

“ The Secondary FOCUS programme has really helped the students to improve their skills and knowledge in many different areas linking to their progression in the future. The sessions are delivered at the right levels for different ages and are adapted so that all students can be involved. The programme is now a very important part of our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme. The students have gained a good insight into Higher Education as well as the pathways and work involved in reaching their full potential. The workshops inspire the students to reach their aspirations.’

**A teacher
The Albion Academy**

Upper Secondary

FOCUS

A series of workshops and trips that develop skills and knowledge which support students to fulfil their educational and career ambitions. This programme also includes extra-curricular enrichment and networking activities that stand out on students' CVs and UCAS forms.

Which age groups?

Years 12-13

What is the programme?

The post-16 Secondary workshops focus on independent learning skills, support with CV writing, interview skills, UCAS and personal statement support and the transition to university or another chosen pathway.

Student enrichment opportunities range from work experiences and paid internships, to overseas challenges, to university summer schools. Most opportunities are only available through **IntoUniversity** and some lead to contextual university offers or paid employment.

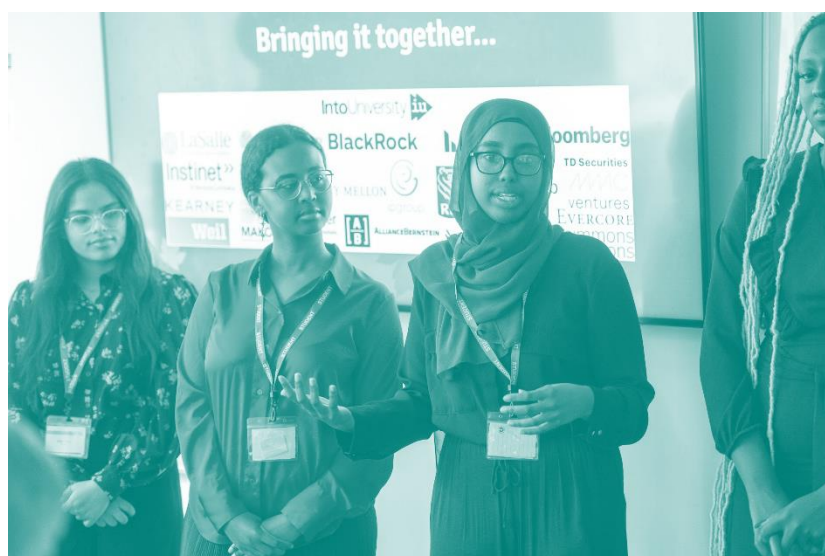
A Teacher's Perspective

A Head of Year 13 at one of **IntoUniversity's** partner Secondary schools shared his experience of working with the charity.

“ I [sat in on] an **IntoUniversity** workshop recently – it was the Year 13 cohort's final workshop. There was advice given on student finance and opportunities for students to consider the expenses, but also the level of support available at university. It was delivered in a way that was student-friendly; the engagement was very high and students felt empowered at the end of the session. The value of **IntoUniversity** is that it supplements a lot of the school's careers programmes and there are workshops for every year group. **IntoUniversity** helps to tick off some of the Gatsby benchmarks and many of the workshops link careers and the curriculum.

On results day, **IntoUniversity** is here at the school. Every year you help students navigate a process that can be emotionally very stressful but it's always done with great sensitivity and care, which is appreciated by the students. Many of our Year 13 students go to **IntoUniversity's** one-to-one drop-in surgeries because they have further questions, and those sessions are pivotal to not just the students here, but very much for the entire area. The extra opportunities outside **IntoUniversity** that you help to connect students with are again really special services.

As teachers we have to juggle a lot of different hats; **IntoUniversity** helps to build capacity by designing and delivering excellent sessions. **IntoUniversity** delivers the most up-to-date and best-possible advice and expertise and I think that's really important. The workshops introduce students to a whole new process of thinking about careers and the value of university - it's the normalisation of university which helps build high aspiration.'



2022/23 Upper Secondary FOCUS delivery by **Into**University Salford Central

Centre	School	Number of activities delivered to schools	Number of students
Salford Central	Eccles Sixth Form College	1	1
	Pendleton Sixth Form College	6	52
	UTC Media City	1	29
	Out-of-school support (students from multiple schools)	n/a	4
	Target number of students		80
	Actual number of students		86*

*please note that the number in the column total may be less than the sum of the individual rows, as students who took part in both in-school and out-of-school activities are only counted once towards the total.

<p>Programme Highlight</p> <p>Year 13 students at Pendleton Sixth Form College took part in a 'Writing Personal Statements and UCAS' workshop where students developed their knowledge of the UCAS application process. Students learned how to write an effective personal statement whilst developing their communication and teamwork skills by analysing past examples of personal statements. Students then collated the best techniques from each source and ended by writing a first draft of their own personal statement. Students increased their knowledge and confidence in UCAS and personal statement writing whilst also developing their interpersonal skills.</p>	<p>Student Evaluations</p> <p>68%</p> <p>of IntoUniversity Salford Central students reported that they knew more about university as a result of Secondary FOCUS.</p>	<p>“ IntoUniversity has done an amazing job at reducing the barriers for young people wishing to pursue Higher Education. This has been shown through my experience of being supported through mock interviews and the selection process for the Big City Bright Future internship. I would say that everyone should be open to all the available opportunities at IntoUniversity, because they deliver such a wide range of programmes for young people to access.’</p> <p>A Year 13 student IntoUniversity Salford Central</p>
---	--	---

Mentoring

The Mentoring programme matches **Into**University students with university student volunteers, providing them with positive role models and the opportunity to develop their social skills, explore future options and improve academic attainment. Young people benefit from regular one-to-one support from a role model who can offer invaluable advice and guidance. In Year 13, students are paired with a corporate mentor who offers support with the transition from the final year of school through to university.

Which age groups?

Years 6-13

Buddy

The Buddy programme matches young people with university student volunteers over two days. Students participate in subject-based workshops, before spending a day at a university. The programme aims to enhance students' understanding of university life and different approaches to learning. Visiting a university and meeting undergraduates introduces students to a degree subject and helps them to view university as a realistic option for their future.

Which age groups?

Year 8

A Mentoring Pair's Perspective

An **Into**University mentoring pair, Mark and Fergus, shared their experience of the Mentoring programme.

“**Fergus (Mentor):**

I found out about **Into**University through an email from my university and I jumped at the opportunity. Mark is such a brilliant student and I feel that week on week, I get to improve on my communication and leadership skills. Having a lasting effect on someone else's education is something that keeps bringing me back. A memory that stands out for me was when we did some baking and we made brownies. They didn't come out that well but the experience, and sharing that with Mark, was the funniest moment!

Mentoring has helped me work in small teams. We get the opportunity to work within groups at **Into**University events or in sessions where we interact with other mentoring pairs. Working with people of all ages helps me feel more confident in myself. I would absolutely recommend mentoring with **Into**University. One of the main reasons I signed up to become a mentor was because I didn't have the opportunity when I was going through school myself. Having the chance to support someone's education, and being able to express your own knowledge and teach others, is very rewarding.'

“**Mark (Mentee):**

My dad heard about **Into**University from a friend and my older siblings also attend. I keep coming back because the environment is really quiet; it's peaceful and we have all the resources available to us. The staff are incredible and they have lots of versatile knowledge. Fergus is such a brilliant mentor and I learn a lot from him. My best memory of mentoring was when Fergus introduced me to new learning styles and revision methods, like the Pomodoro method. I felt as though that was a breakthrough in my learning. As a mentee you get to experience new teaching styles from an actual student who is going through the exam season.

Sometimes you may not understand the teaching in your school, so having someone younger explain the way they learn is really important. Also, being able to talk to someone who is going through education is important because they know how we are feeling and what methods we can use to improve. My goals for the future are to finish my GCSEs and then move onto my A-Levels – I am really interested in Electrical Engineering.'



Centre	Types of Mentoring	Number of students
Salford Central	University Pairs	10
	Buddy	55
	Target for Mentoring programmes	58
	Total for Mentoring programmes	65*

*students who attend both Buddy and Mentoring are counted twice towards this number.

<p>Student Evaluations</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: #009682;">89%</p> <p>of IntoUniversity Salford Central students reported that they were more likely to go to university as a result of the Buddy programme.</p>	<p>Student Evaluations</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: #009682;">84%</p> <p>of IntoUniversity Salford Central students reported that they knew more about university as a result of the Buddy programme.</p>
---	---

<p>Mentoring Highlight</p> <p>IntoUniversity Salford Central ran its first 'Meet your Mentor' event in February to allow the centre's mentoring pairs to get to know one another and also meet the other pairs. The event started with a quiz about mentoring and SMART goals, before the volunteers and students were matched. Pairs then took part in a range of activities to get to know each other including one person in each pair wearing a blindfold and the other guiding them through a 'minefield course' using clear instructions; the activity allowed pairs to develop their communication skills and teamwork. Finally, each pair was given 30 minutes to interview each other with a set of questions about hobbies, aspirations and the Mentoring scheme. This activity supported mentors and mentees to have a one-to-one conversation and establish similarities and differences about one another.</p>	<p>“ The Mentoring programme helps me with confidence and gives me academic support, and my mentor can share their own experiences. The reason why I wanted a mentor was because it is a new experience and something different from school. During one of our meetings, I enjoyed doing the skittle experiment where we put skittles on the plate and poured water on the plate to extract the colours! I also enjoyed doing a spelling test with Joy. When I did another spelling test in school, I got them all correct. I have found the sessions really useful so far!</p> <p>A Year 6 mentee IntoUniversity Salford Central</p> <p>“ The reason why I wanted to take part in the Mentoring scheme is I have always enjoyed giving back to young people and giving them an opportunity. I also wanted to provide a different perspective about navigating life. I think it is important to share and understand different challenges and let young people know they are not alone. I've massively enjoyed getting to know my mentee personally and she has greatly improved her communication skills. Not only have I seen her improve academically, I've also seen her grow in confidence as time has progressed.'</p> <p>A University of Salford student mentor</p>
---	---

Additional Programmes

Extending Horizons is a three-day residential trip run in partnership with a university, which aims to raise students' aspirations and broaden their horizons.

Holiday FOCUS programmes introduce students to different careers, future pathways and degree subjects. Students work in teams, enjoy interactive, hands-on learning, meet professionals and visit cultural landmarks. We also provide bespoke holiday revision sessions for students in Years 6-13 with specialist tutors on hand.

Careers in FOCUS introduces students to different career possibilities. Volunteers from a range of professions speak about their work and lead an interactive session that demonstrates a transferable skill necessary to their job.

Business in FOCUS is a one-day challenge facilitated by a team of corporate volunteers, designed to promote skills in leadership and teamwork.

Leadership in FOCUS is a three-day programme exploring and developing leadership skills whilst raising aspiration, self-esteem and motivation.

Which age groups?

Years 3-13

A Corporate Volunteer's Perspective

Madeline, a junior doctor, shared her experience of volunteering on a Careers in FOCUS Day with Year 10 students at **IntoUniversity**.

“I'd heard a lot about **IntoUniversity** and know people who work and volunteer for the charity. I was very keen to speak to young people about something that I'm passionate about, that could hopefully inspire and enthuse them to be interested too. The young people got really involved in the activities that I planned; I enjoyed opening up lots of conversation and debate around the activities, like prioritising sick patients or looking at X-rays, which some of them hadn't seen before.

I really liked putting together a presentation for young people, which I've not had the opportunity to do before; it was a learning curve for me. Teaching young people who don't have any preconceived ideas about Medicine or what it's like to be a doctor is quite new for me. It was nice to get creative and think about what a young person would want to know about being a doctor or studying Medicine. I appreciated the opportunity to think of tasks and challenges that would make them interested in studying Medicine. I really enjoyed getting to meet the young people and seeing their enthusiasm.

I would definitely recommend volunteering with **IntoUniversity** as it is a really good opportunity to do something you haven't done before, especially if you don't work with young people. I volunteered because I had seen how much other people enjoyed working at **IntoUniversity** and was excited for the opportunity to do that myself. Everyone who works here made it really easy and accessible to come in and run the session - it was a really good experience.’



148

attendances on additional programmes

N.B. some students take part in multiple additional programmes, and therefore this does not represent a number of unique students.

Holiday FOCUS workshop themes:

- Sustainability
- Sports Journalism
- Travel and Tourism

Careers in FOCUS:

Students from Albion Academy enjoyed a Careers in FOCUS workshop this year. Volunteers from a range of employers led sessions about their education and career paths, followed by an interactive activity designed to give students an understanding of the skills required in the volunteers' roles and sectors. On the second day, students enjoyed a celebration event at payment technology company, Conferma Pay.

- Volunteer speakers included:
- Training and HR Advisory Manager, Peninsula
 - Product Manager, AJ Bell
 - Apprentice Solicitor, Ward Hardaway

Business in FOCUS:

Students from Albion Academy took part in a 'Music Charity' Business in FOCUS Day, hosted by BNY Mellon. In two teams, students were tasked with creating, promoting and running their own unique music charity to support a cause of their choice. Supported by BNY Mellon volunteers, students immersed themselves in all aspects of the day, including drawing up a business plan, generating income from funding applications, calculating expenditure and planning and performing a fundraising concert. It was a fantastic way for the students to experience a corporate environment, and develop a variety of skills, including teamwork, leadership, time management and communication.

Holiday FOCUS Highlight

IntoUniversity Salford Central students in Years 3-7 enjoyed a 'Sustainability' Holiday FOCUS programme in February. They began their journey to becoming 'sustainable stars' through a myth-busting quiz to understand how resources are used to make everyday items, followed by activities which used materials in novel ways, including turning egg cartons into 'cress cranes' to grow cress at home. They put their knowledge to the test by taking part in a 'rubbish runway', creating outfits from recyclable materials and modelling them on a runway. The programme ended with students designing a robot that could tackle a variety of climate issues.

Student Evaluations

80%

of **Into**University Salford Central students reported improved teamwork as a result of the Holiday FOCUS programme.

80%

of **Into**University Salford Central students reported that they felt more confident communicating with adults as a result of the Leadership in FOCUS programme.

“The best thing about the Careers in FOCUS programme was learning about different job roles because it opened up more opportunities for potential career paths. I also enjoyed the enterprise challenge because it helped to improve my confidence and teamwork skills. I learnt what an HR consultant was and that there are many different roles in a tech company!”

**Year 9 student
IntoUniversity Salford Central**

Factors affecting progression to Higher Education

After a surge in university applications during and immediately after the pandemic, this year has seen a nationwide fall in the proportion of young people accepted into university, to the lowest level in the last four years.¹ It seems to be the case that our students are now less likely to go to university than before the pandemic. We think this reflects the increasing challenges facing young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We have identified some key factors that may be affecting our students' decisions about their post-school pathways, detailed below. These are national trends; progression rates in particular regions and **Into**University centres will vary.



Disadvantaged students suffered nearly twice as much learning loss during lockdown as other students.² School closures heavily disrupted their learning for end of school qualifications; for our 2023 school leavers, their GCSE exams were cancelled, meaning that many students went into A-Level with no prior experience of sitting external exams.



Attendance for all students has decreased since the pandemic. The biggest fall has been for disadvantaged students, 38% of whom are now persistently absent, double the rate for other students.³



Grade boundaries returned to their pre-pandemic level for the first time this year, meaning fewer students obtained top grades than in recent years.⁴ Early indications are that this had a disproportionate impact on less advantaged students.



The average annual rent for private student accommodation is now higher than the maximum maintenance loan available to students.⁵ 49% of school leavers have reconsidered going to university in the last year due to rising living costs, and 31% believe university is not affordable.⁶



Disadvantaged students are further behind their peers than at any point in the last decade.⁷

1. UCAS, Statistical Releases – Daily Clearing Analysis (2023)

2. Centre for Economic Performance, Learning loss since lockdown: variation across the home nations (2021)

3. Public First, Listening to and learning from parents in the attendance crisis (2023)

4. Education Policy Institute, Analysis: Level 3 Results Day 2023

5. PwC, Student accommodation: Availability and rental growth trends (2023)

6. Open University survey (2023) <https://ounews.co/education-languages-health/education/school-leavers-cost-of-living-soars/> - accessed November 2023

7. Education Policy Institute, Annual Report (2023)

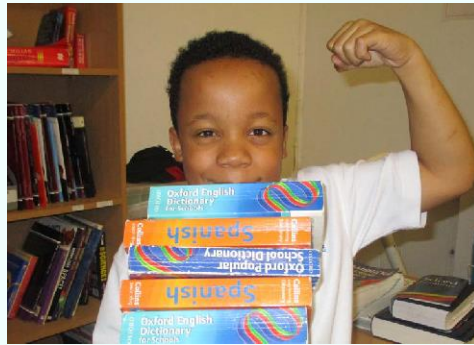
20 Years of IntoUniversity

The past 20 years has seen **IntoUniversity** grow from a homework club in North Kensington to a national charity with centres across England and Scotland, serving many of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the UK. In the first year that **IntoUniversity** was launched, its aim was to provide opportunities for 75 young people to realise their talents and reach their undoubted potential to go to university or to achieve another chosen aspiration. Through the collaboration of hundreds of schools and universities, the resolute support of local families, the thoughtful commitment of corporate partners, the kind expertise of thousands of volunteers, the incredible generosity of funders, and the dedicated expertise of a wonderful staff team, **IntoUniversity** is now the leading provider of widening participation services in the UK. 20 years on, over 192,000 students have been supported through the **IntoUniversity** programme across our 39 centres, and we're continuing to grow, with more centres due to be launched in 2023/24.

Key highlights

▶ over
192,000

students have
been through the
IntoUniversity
programme



▶ 39
centres

and we're continuing
to grow, with more
centres due to be
launched in 2023/24

▶ 33,300

Academic
Support
sessions

▶ 30,000

workshops

▶ 4.4
million

contact
hours



20 Years of IntoUniversity

2002

The first **IntoUniversity** centre opened in North Kensington



2007

IntoUniversity opened its second centre in Lambeth



2010

IntoUniversity wins Charity of the Year for the first time



2011

First **IntoUniversity** centre opens outside of London in Nottingham

IntoUniversity's first Impact Report is published

IntoUniversity reaches **10,000** students supported

2012

IntoUniversity celebrates its 10th anniversary

2015

IntoUniversity wins charity of the year for the second time

IntoUniversity reaches 20 centres in 7 cities across England

2016

Big City Bright Future internship launches in partnership with corporate partner, BlackRock

2018

IntoUniversity reaches **100,000** students supported



2019

The Khadija Saye Arts at **IntoUniversity** programme was founded

2020

IntoUniversity pivots to remote support during the pandemic, closing centres for the first time

2021

IntoUniversity opened three centres in Scotland, becoming a bi-national charity

2022

IntoUniversity wins its third Charity of the Year award



2023

IntoUniversity reaches 39 centres in 22 towns and cities across England and Scotland

20 Years of IntoUniversity



Harlem

Harlem is a 22-year old Reception Teacher. Fifteen years ago, she walked into the **IntoUniversity** Lambeth centre (now Kennington) for the first time aged 7.

“**IntoUniversity** isn't just about getting into university, but about beating the odds and managing the unpredictable and often unequal circumstances so many of us find ourselves in.

The **IntoUniversity** centres can mean so much to so many and are spaces that meet with people at points of celebration and in more challenging times, but no matter what you are always met with a kind smile and the opportunity for a chat. The centres themselves become relationships, memories, dreams and aspirations - intangible things. Every **IntoUniversity** centre becomes a part of a community - a constant.’

Yafet

In 2015, Yafet was a student at our Leeds East centre, being supported with his ambitions by a mentor from the University of Leeds. Whilst at school, Yafet visited Edinburgh on a residential trip with **IntoUniversity**; now, in 2023, he is studying Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science at The University of Edinburgh and is a mentor to Lao, an S4 student who attends our Craigmillar centre.



“**IntoUniversity** exposed me to a whole heap of opportunities, including a scholarship to a boarding school and university trips, which exposed me to new ideas and perspectives, helping me identify and pursue my passion.

‘[Of the advice I'd give my younger self] I'd say make sure you use all the opportunities. Take them all because, down the road, you never know whether it will have a knock-on effect. Whatever you do today or tomorrow will affect your future, whether it's five years, ten years, or maybe even just a month later, just make sure you take every opportunity because it will have a domino effect.’

Programme Outputs

Please see below the breakdown of **Into**University Salford Central's performance against targets.

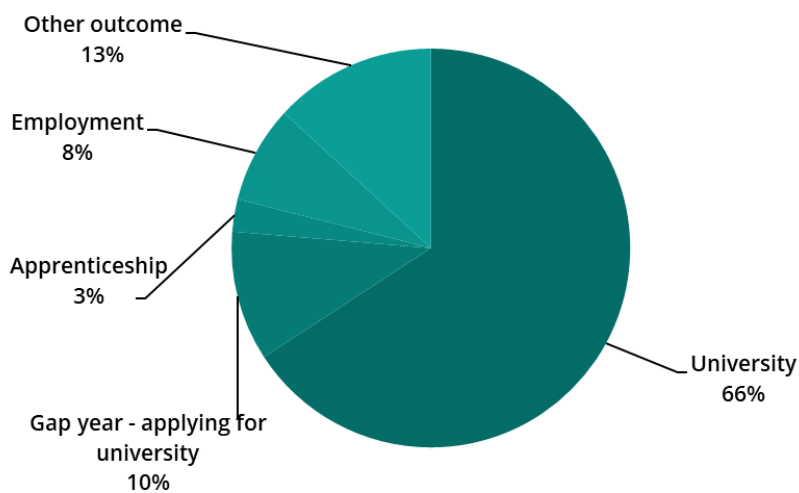
Summary programme outputs	Actual students	Target	Difference	% of target achieved
Academic Support	100	75	25	133%
Primary FOCUS	562	350	212	161%
Primary FOCUS Years 3-4	176			
Primary FOCUS Years 5-6	367			
Holiday FOCUS / Extending Horizons	40			
Lower Secondary FOCUS	312	120	192	260%
Secondary FOCUS Years 7-11	306			
Out-of-school support and additional programmes (students from multiple schools)	82			
Upper Secondary FOCUS	86	80	6	108%
Secondary FOCUS Year 12-13	82			
Out-of-school support and additional programmes (students from multiple schools)	4			
Mentoring: Buddy and 1:1 support	65	58	7	112%
Buddy	55			
Mentoring	10			
Total unique* students = 997				

*Students are only counted once, even if they take part in multiple programmes. Total unique students will be less than the combined total for each programme, as some students attend multiple programmes.

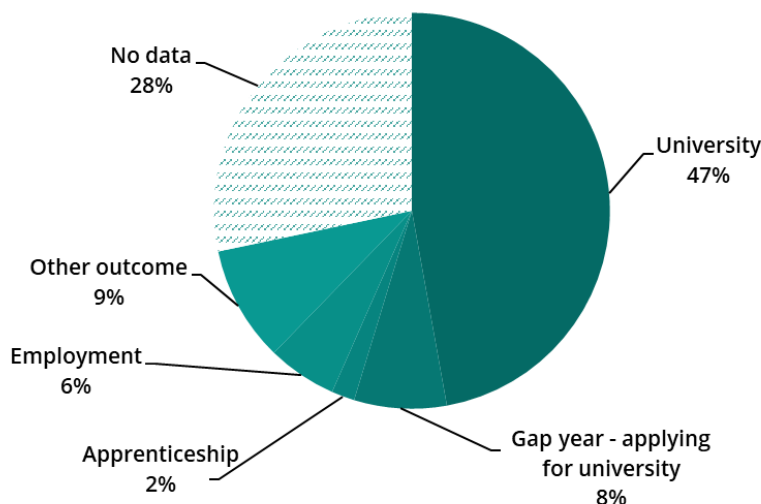
Higher Education Progression

Each year we collect data on the next steps of **Into**University students who are either finishing Year 13 or would have completed Year 13 had they stayed in school. The data is obtained either from our partner schools or by contacting students directly to find out what they are doing. Although staff made every effort to contact all students, there were some for whom we were unable to obtain data. This year we had a total of 53 **Into**University Salford Central leavers and were able to obtain destination data for 38 of them. Of these, 25 (66%) gained a place at university. The first chart below shows data for the students we were able to get in touch with. The second chart shows all students, including those for whom we were unable to obtain data.

Destinations of IntoUniversity Salford Central 2023 school leavers responding to our survey



Destinations of all IntoUniversity Salford Central 2023 school leavers (including non-respondents)



IntoUniversity Salford Central's cohort of students outperformed a range of local and national benchmarks by between 17 and 46 percentage points.

		Area	H.E. progression rate	Percentage point difference for IntoUniversity students
Benchmark	IntoUniversity Salford Central		66%	n/a
	Estimated % of all FSM maintained school pupils who entered H.E. by age 19	Salford	20%	46 pp
		England	28%	38 pp
	Estimated % of all maintained school pupils (FSM and non-FSM) who entered H.E. by age 19	Salford	34%	32 pp
		England	44%	22 pp
	Estimated % of all disadvantaged students studying A-Level or equivalent progressing to H.E.	Salford	43%	23 pp
		England	46%	20 pp
	Estimated % of all (disadvantaged and all other) students studying A-Level or equivalent progressing to H.E.	Salford	42%	24 pp
		England	49%	17 pp
	% 18 year olds who entered H.E. based on POLAR 4 (2009-2015)	U.K.	37%	29 pp
		Salford	31%	35 pp
		Local area ('MSOA')* around the Salford Central centre	20%	46 pp

*Middle Layer Super Output Area

Please note, in 2023, grading was returned to pre-pandemic levels. The benchmarks above use data for 2019 school leavers, as this is the most recent dataset available with comparable grade boundaries.

OMR

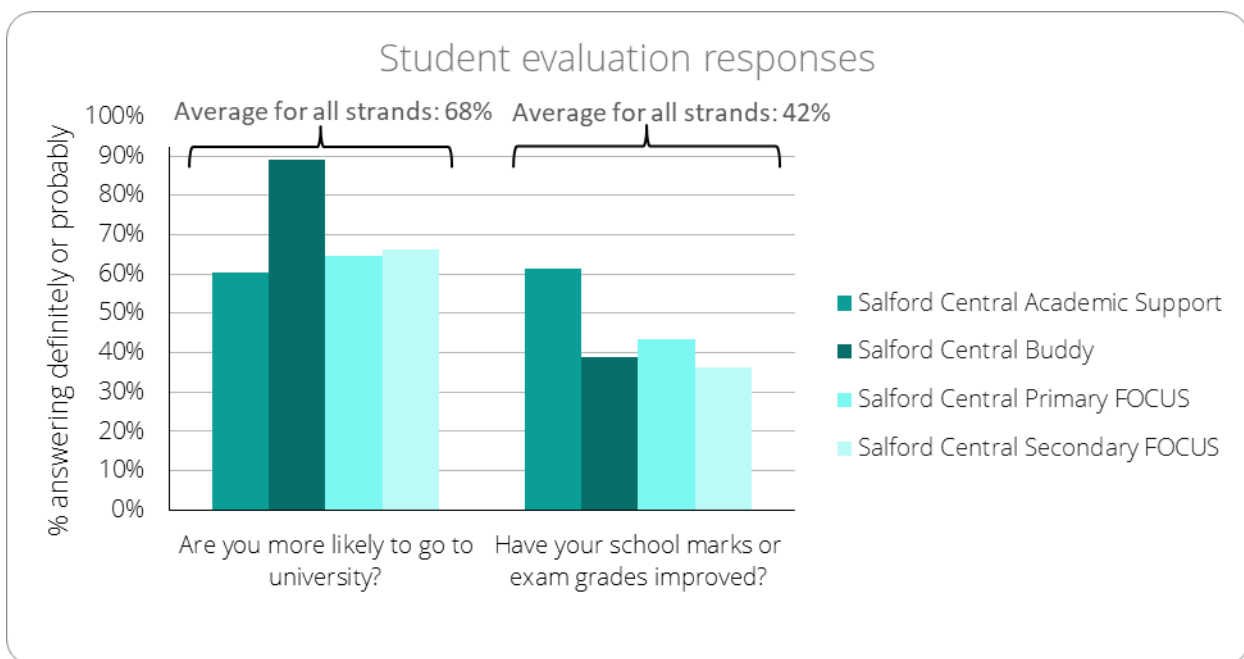
Evaluations

IntoUniversity has developed comprehensive systems for gathering and analysing self-reports from students. The charity aims to survey all students we work with using Optical Mark Reading (OMR) forms. These forms provide a detailed picture of young people's perceptions of the impact of various parts of the programme. This year we received 904 responses from **Into**University Salford Central students. The full set of responses is available on the following page. Two of the key questions asked are:

As a result of attending **Into**University, are you more likely to go to university?

As a result of attending **Into**University, have your school marks or grades improved?

In analysing the combined responses, the charity considered the different strands that each student attended, i.e. a student attending Academic Support should primarily be reporting an improvement in their grades as this is the focus of their time spent with **Into**University, whilst a student attending Secondary FOCUS should primarily be reporting that they are more likely to go to university in comparison to other programme outcomes, due to the nature of the workshops.



We can see that 68% of students on all programmes reported that they were more likely to go to university as a result of attending **Into**University. This suggests that all programmes are having an effect on student aspirations. As expected, students on the Academic Support programme are much more likely to report improved grades than students on other programmes.

OMR

Evaluations

Have you enjoyed yourself?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	86%	11%	3%
Academic Support	88%	9%	3%
Buddy	98%	2%	0%
Primary FOCUS	88%	9%	3%
Secondary FOCUS	77%	17%	6%

Are you working better at school?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	60%	28%	13%
Academic Support	67%	16%	17%
Buddy	64%	29%	7%
Primary FOCUS	62%	27%	11%
Secondary FOCUS	54%	31%	15%

Are you more likely to go to university?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	68%	23%	9%
Academic Support	60%	25%	15%
Buddy	89%	11%	0%
Primary FOCUS	65%	25%	10%
Secondary FOCUS	66%	25%	8%

Do you know more about university?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	70%	16%	14%
Academic Support	49%	12%	38%
Buddy	84%	15%	2%
Primary FOCUS	81%	12%	7%
Secondary FOCUS	68%	20%	12%

Has your confidence improved?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	59%	23%	17%
Academic Support	69%	22%	9%
Buddy	60%	27%	13%
Primary FOCUS	62%	21%	17%
Secondary FOCUS	48%	28%	24%

Have your school marks or exam grades improved?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	42%	35%	24%
Academic Support	61%	21%	18%
Buddy	39%	52%	9%
Primary FOCUS	43%	33%	24%
Secondary FOCUS	36%	34%	30%

Are you more likely to achieve your career goals?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	66%	25%	9%
Academic Support	69%	22%	9%
Buddy	69%	28%	4%
Primary FOCUS	67%	23%	10%
Secondary FOCUS	62%	28%	10%

Are you more confident communicating with others, including adults?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	65%	19%	17%
Academic Support	66%	21%	13%
Buddy	71%	24%	5%
Primary FOCUS	64%	15%	20%
Secondary FOCUS	57%	24%	19%

Can you work better in a team?			
	Positive	Maybe	Negative
All programmes	73%	16%	11%
Academic Support	85%	12%	3%
Buddy	75%	16%	9%
Primary FOCUS	76%	11%	13%
Secondary FOCUS	65%	21%	14%

Case Study

Zi Xuan – Year 7, IntoUniversity Salford Central

Zi Xuan first met the **IntoUniversity** Salford Central team in October 2022 during a 'Choosing Success' Secondary FOCUS workshop at his school. Zi Xuan subsequently came to the centre's open day and is now a regular attendee of Academic Support. Zi Xuan takes up every opportunity that is offered to him at the centre and has already taken part in the Holiday FOCUS programme, completed several Future Readiness projects, including writing an article on the latest breakthroughs in society, and he receives one-to-one support from his University of Salford student mentor. Although he is very dedicated and has strong academic abilities, he struggled with his confidence and communication skills when he first joined Academic Support. The centre team has seen Zi Xuan's confidence grow and he has formed strong relationships with other students; he recently gave a presentation to the class as part of a Future Readiness project to practise his public speaking skills, which he was extremely proud of. Zi Xuan has very recently started mentoring sessions and uses the opportunity to work towards his future goals, especially his aspirations to do well in his GCSEs.

What do you hope to achieve by coming to IntoUniversity?

'I hope to achieve better grades when I get to Year 11 and have a good career. I'm in Year 7 at the moment but I'd like to be either a scientist or a businessman in the future.'

How has IntoUniversity helped you?

'**IntoUniversity** has improved my soft skills like confidence, communication and teamwork. In the workshops in school, I had to communicate with my team, and I improved my communication at Academic Support as I had to stand up and present a speech to the class.'

What is your best memory of IntoUniversity?

'My best memory of **IntoUniversity** is the 'Sustainability' Holiday FOCUS because there were lots of fun arts and crafts activities like drawing and building. The best activity was making an astronaut suit, while the other teams made explorer and superhero outfits, out of rubbish like cardboard and plastic.'

What do you most enjoy about IntoUniversity?

'It's usually very calm and I can focus on my work. It gives me time to do my homework and stay on top of my work. My favourite thing about **IntoUniversity** is how fun it is.'

Which IntoUniversity programme did you find most beneficial and why?

'The workshops in school because they support me with lots of stuff, like confidence and working with other children. We had to do an origami zoo activity which taught us about the difference between quality and quantity, and that we should prioritise quality over quantity.'

How has IntoUniversity supported you to think about your future?

'Mostly in the Future Readiness projects because they have made me think about what I want to do in the future. I'm developing both my academic and soft skills which will help me to advance through my GCSEs and college.'



Photo Gallery



Clockwise from top left:

Buddy programme visit to the University of Salford; a Secondary FOCUS workshop; a mentoring pair 'social' meeting; a 'university tree' workshop during a Primary FOCUS Week; **Into**University Salford Central official centre launch; a 'Sports Journalism' Holiday FOCUS programme

To find out more about
IntoUniversity please contact

 020 7243 0242

 info@intouniversity.org

 www.intouniversity.org

IntoUniversity 