

North East Collaborative Outreach Programme and FutureMe

Key messages for parents/carers

What is the North East Collaborative Outreach Programme?

The North East Collaborative Outreach Programme (NECOP) is a collaboration of all of the universities and colleges in the North East region working together to deliver a targeted programme of information and support relating to higher education options in the North East.

What is FutureMe?

FutureMe is the programme of activity being offered to students in Years 9-13 in participating schools. Students taking part in FutureMe will have access to a range of activities and events to support them in considering their future options and learning about educational pathways available to them. By taking part in FutureMe activities we want young people to:

- Have the opportunity to plan for their future and gain an understanding of what can support them in reaching their goals.
- Have access to high quality information and support to help them consider whether higher education is the right option for them.
- Have an increased awareness and understanding of higher education opportunities and progression pathways in the region.

Which students and schools are working on FutureMe activities?

We have asked teachers to identify students who would benefit from having specific support to help them think about their futures and how higher education might help them achieve their goals. We want to make sure that students are considering all of the options available to them and have the opportunity to receive information and support regarding higher education. Students working with us have been identified by their teachers as being very able students who have the potential to successfully progress to higher education.

The schools we are working with have been identified as supporting students from areas where participation in higher education is both low overall and lower than would be expected given GCSE attainment in those areas. This means that we are working in schools where students have lots of potential but due to a range of factors have traditionally not been progressing to higher education.

What activities will students take part in?

Each school will have the opportunity to establish which of the activities we offer are best for their school and students. This may include visits and talks from Higher Education Ambassadors, inspirational sessions delivered to groups of students by external companies, or more intensive support such as mentoring by undergraduate students.

All of the activities and support offered aims to encourage students to consider all of the options available to them to reach their future goals.

How will participating benefit students?

- FutureMe activity has been developed based on the wealth of knowledge and experience of working with young people held by the five universities and 19 colleges involved in the project. This ensures that students will receive high quality support relating to helping them think about their future and higher education.
- Our Higher Education Ambassadors and mentors represent the whole higher education offer in the region so students will be able to learn about all of the higher education opportunities open to them in the North East.
- Students will develop knowledge and confidence to help them make informed decisions about their futures and gain a better understanding of how they can act on these decisions.
- Students may have access to an undergraduate mentor or a Higher Education Ambassador who has recently graduated from a higher education institution. This will allow students to get up to date information about higher education that is specific to them.