

# Working collaboratively to support the progression of year 1 level 3 BTEC learners to higher level opportunities

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London South

# Aimhigher London South Vision

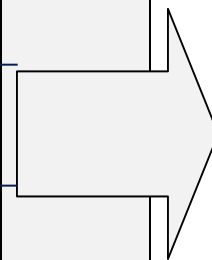
*‘To ensure that every young person, who has the potential, has fair access to the benefits that Higher Education presents.’*

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# Background to the project

Part of the Aimhigher London South programme of 12 collaborative conferences for learners

	KS3			KS4		Post 16		HE
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	
	Awareness			Aspiration		Achievement & Application		Retention
What should the learner outcome be?	HE exists	Progression has pathways	GCSE options lead to progression opportunities	Awareness of opportunities	Career oriented activity	Understanding HE courses- subjects, content, teaching styles	Applying	
What activity best supports that learner outcome?	HE visits, Ambassadors in schools, Role models	Progression ladders, Intro subject tasters	Careers focused activity	Summer schools, Interactive Subject Specific	1:1 peer mentoring, supporting revision sessions	Subject specific masterclasses	UCAS preparation	
How do you know it is effective?	'I want to go...'	'I know what I have to do'		'I am able to ..'		'I <u>will</u> go!'		
Current Aimhigher activity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y8 Intro Conference</li> <li>Aspire to HE conference x2</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HE Skills</li> <li>World of Work</li> <li>Alt to Medicine</li> <li>NCOP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCOP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Getting the most from you BTEC</li> <li>Alt to Medicine</li> <li>Creative Industries</li> <li>Supporting SpLD students</li> <li>NCOP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing to Apply x2</li> <li>NCOP</li> </ul>	
How can the AHLS partnership support the activity further?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting curriculum with HE role models</li> <li>More Student Ambassadors in schools</li> </ul>	Linking careers to progression e.g. Experiment roadshows	HE input to the options process  Working with parents	Intro of Employability Skills, exposing students to the opportunities	Revision, study skills workshops	Collaborative interventions giving insight into different courses e.g. BTEC conference	Preparing to apply conference	
Parents	Jargon busting and 'what is HE?' awareness raising			Skills for HE	A-level options: Parent Ambassadors	Parent ambassadors at HEI open days	What to expect from HE?	
		Input into Option's evenings (student and parent ambassadors)		Careers	Parent blogs	Hot seating with ambassadors		



# Background to the project

Two conferences focusing on the vocational learner in year 12

- Autumn term - Getting the most from your BTEC
- Summer term - You@18 - university and the alternatives

# The aim of the introductory event is:

For BTEC students to realise that they have as many progression opportunities as A level students in terms of university and careers:

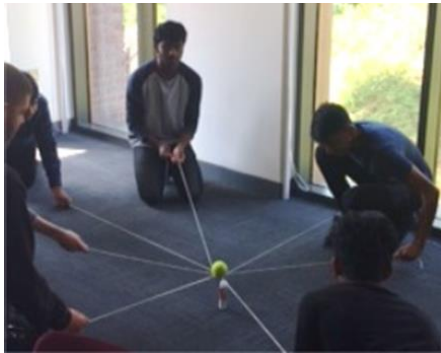
- To meet role models, be inspired, realise the benefits of BTEC
- To motivate them to do their best to do well (i.e. achieve merits and distinctions) in order to progress
- To provide some tools/techniques to do well

# You@18

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- Encourage learners to consider who they are, what they want to do, where they want to be and the best way to get there.
- Make learners aware of alternative forms of study including apprenticeships and degree level study in an FE as well as an HE setting so they can make an informed decision.
- Discover the skills they have and how they can sell themselves.
- Equip learners with some next steps to help them achieve where they want to be.

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# Adapting to change

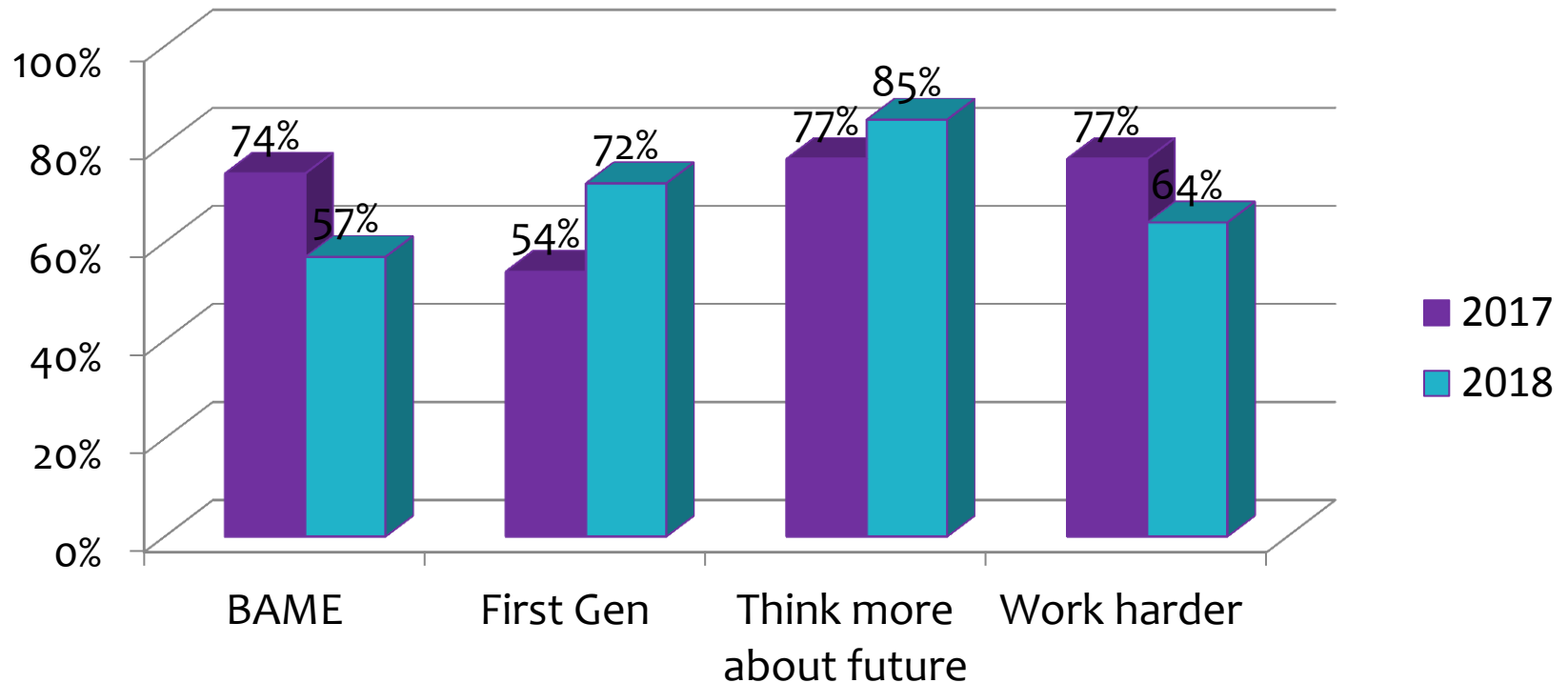
- Feedback from HEI/School partners regarding challenges facing BTEC students
- National picture – less likely to progress and retention issues
- Feedback from evaluation
- Qualification change – Exam element
- Reduction of BTEC students in schools – changes to conferences



# Adapting to change

- 2016/17 – overhauled Vocational conference:
  - Study Skills inc exam preparation
  - Subject specific removed
  - Support focussed tour
  - Feedback from Academic highlighting the value of vocational learner
  - You@18 introduced apprenticeships Vs university
- 2017/18 – further revised based on partner feedback and evaluation:
  - Led to combined version of both conferences
  - More general interactive study skills session
  - Guidance Pathway session brought in – very SA focussed
  - Senior Academic opening Address
  - Motivational speaker introduced

# Impact & feedback



## Latest cycle UCAS Feedback from learners we worked with :

21% of ALL eligible cohort who applied were from our BTEC cohort

53% of eligible BTEC learners applied ( increase of 30% on previous year)

# Embedding the work – School Case study - Coombe Federation

Year 10/11	Year 12	Year 13
BTEC Choices	BTECs we want you - Aimhigher event	Preparing to Apply (UCAS support for BTEC)
Informing parents with ambassadors	Creative Industries (Aimhigher) (media, performing arts)	
Why study a BTEC? Hotseating with BTEC ambassadors & year 13 BTEC students	Alternatives to Medicine (Aimhigher) (Science, healthcare)	

# Further embedding

- Bridging Group - senior leaders
- HEIs access and participation plans
- Working with more colleges South Thames Group and Lambeth
- Looked After Children – part of the local offer
- CPD ‘Thank you for using the example of a BTEC!’



Any questions ?

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## Discussion

- How do you work to support BTEC learners through transition?
- Considering beyond the transition point – statistically a BTEC learner is more likely to not continue in first year if don't embed themselves in life and support of HEI – is there something additional we can be doing to support these learners after transition?
- Working collaboratively to support your learners – FEC market? What is helpful to colleges?