

## Work with Care Experienced young People 2025

### Isaac Newton Trust

#### Visit days

The visit to Gonville and Caius includes an introductory talk with support from the Widening Participation Coordinator (Priority Groups), Kirstyn Kedaitis; a Q and A with students; a tour of the College; lunch in our dining hall; and an academic taster session.

#### Primary visit on Wednesday 5 March 2025

Virtual school	Number of children on the visit	Number of adults on the visit
Newham	4	3
Bexley	9	2
Barnet	4	2
Greenwich	10	3
Bromley	2	4
Tower Hamlets	1	1

Total: 30 pupils and 15 adults

#### Secondary visit on Thursday 3 April 2025

Virtual school	Number of young on the visit	Number of on the visit
Bexley	10	4
Enfield	9	3
Newham	1	1
Lewisham	5	3
Barnet	4	1

Total: 29 pupils and 12 adults

#### Costs

Cost of primary visit coach on Wednesday 5 March: £880

Cost of secondary visit coach on Thursday 3 April: £834

Cost of lecture for secondary visit: £50

Primary visit had visits to museums so there was no cost for this.

Total cost: £1764

### Feedback from primary and secondary visits to Gonville and Caius.

For both visits staff felt that the activities and content of sessions were appropriately pitched and that the activities were appropriate for the students. Colleagues requested that sessions where students are sitting down and listening are broken up with more active sessions.

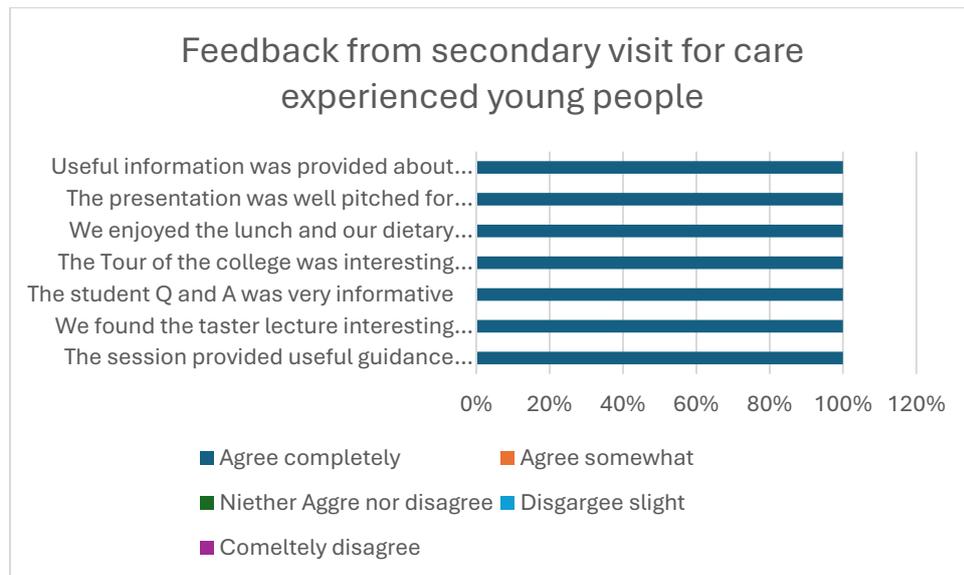
Both said they would have liked to see a greater diversity in the student helpers.

All colleagues from virtual schools felt that the primary and secondary visits have been a great opportunity for their young people and they came away inspired and wanting to work hard toward their qualifications.

### Feedback specially about the secondary visit:

Students loved the lecture of “The Glimpse of the Brain”. They found the subject very interesting and it was delivered in an accessible and engaging way.

5 responded to a feedback questionnaire:



### Comments

All in all it answered all my questions and I really appreciated the experience. Thank you

Thank you so much for a wonderful visit. The Student who gave us our tour, Sam, was so entertaining and friendly and pitched at completely the right level for our young people - we thought he was such an inspiration - an amazing role model!

The visit was very well organised and informative, and a wonderful opportunity for our young people who are all very keen on attending the Summer school stay! It was inspirational and makes going to Cambridge Uni feel more achievable. One thing to improve is the representation of the current students who lead the Q&A session. I've been fortunate enough to attend this visit 3 times, and while each visit

has been brilliant there has been a lack of representation of students from Global majority backgrounds. One of the students who did the Q&A was a care experienced young person, and I could really see a difference in the questions he was able to answer from our young people which were specifically about his journey through care to the university. The thing that stuck with me was the fact that from year 7 he wasn't even in school for a few years. Hearing from students who perhaps have had more challenges in their lives and still got into Cambridge might help our young people feel they can achieve this too. Ashley John-Baptiste, a care experienced man from South London, graduated from Cambridge in 2011. It would be great to have some acknowledgment of this in order for some of our young people to see that it really is possible for them to go to Cambridge. Overall, the day is fantastic and all of the young people I've had the pleasure to accompany on the trip have left feeling inspired and more informed about the opportunities open to them.

### **Feedback specifically about the primary visits.**

There were no responses to the feedback questionnaire however we did receive this email from colleagues who took part in the visit for primary aged care experienced children:

*I wanted to send you, Bethan, and all your students and colleagues involved in the Primary University Trip an amazing thank you. The day was pitched very well for the age group, and my young people got a lot out of it. They all came back able to recite facts about university, and all but one are keen to go to university in the future. Some have even set their sights on Cambridge!*

*I got such lovely feedback from schools and carers who said their young people couldn't stop talking about the day and some shared their experience with their class when they returned to school.*

*We took quite a big group as we weren't sure if this would become an annual event and wanted to give as many of our young people the opportunity. Please do let us know if this is an event you will continue to host.*

Virtual school colleagues who attended the visit said that they felt that the pitch of the sessions and the activities were appropriate and engaging for pupils / students.

The pitch of the activities were perfect for children. There was an activity where the students were doing research on different courses and there were not enough copied of the materials for children to look at.

### **2-day residential costs**

Students and carers were reimbursed train travel as students were coming from such a diverse area that coach travel was not convenient or cost effective.

Total Travel cost = £661.06

25 rooms (11 young people, up to 9 social workers / foster carers + one outreach colleague) for overnight stay and breakfast @£45 x 21 = £945

Total costs = £1606.06

Feedback of residential see feedback report.

### Open Days

Students	Supporting adults
6	3

Costs of overnight bed and breakfast x 9 @£45 = £405

Dinner @£7.50 x 9 = £67.50

Travel to Cambridge for 9 adults, off peak return leaving from London Liverpool Street = £326.25

Total costs applied for Open Days = £798.75

### Conclusions

Overall, this programme of activities has been really well received by the young people that took part. In all the experiences students valued the opportunity to engage with current students and to visit the Cambridge. The areas that students responded best to were the academic experiences:

- The super curricular engagement on the summer school
- The visits to museums for the primary aged children
- The lecture for the secondary aged students

Students also valued the tours of Cambridge and the opportunity to speak to current students. On the secondary visit and on the residential we have care experienced student helpers and this was extremely valuable for our care experienced visitors as it gave a model of people like them engaging in higher education. It also gave visiting students the opportunity to ask questions and importantly to know that there is finance available to support these learners as they progress.

In the future we should aim wherever possible to have student helpers from diverse backgrounds. On the summer school our two student helpers were both care experienced and one was a person of colour. This was commented on positively by students and supporters.

This group are often neurodiverse and can struggle to engage for extended periods of time. Talk heavy sessions should be planned for a maximum of 50 minutes and broken up with other activities.

We now have an established relationship with colleagues from virtual schools and plan that is in place for 2025-26 which should support requirement to events in the coming year. It is a good plan to have a long lead in time for recruitment so that colleagues in virtual schools have time to respond and recruit.