

Isaac Newton Trust

Widening Participation & Induction Fund Report

INT WPIF Grant Ref No: 23.1(4)iv G10 WPIF GIRTON

Girton was the first UK HEI to offer degree-level education to women. The principle of inclusive excellence remains at the heart of our Strategic Plan. A commitment to diversity, inclusion and belonging underpins all aspects of the College's policy and practice in outreach, admissions and everyday life.

Building on a foundational aim of inclusion, Girton attracts an increasingly diverse body of well-qualified students from within and beyond the UK, across all subjects and degree types. In our recent history we had consistently exceeded University Widening Participation targets, and by 2019 were ahead of the curve on the University's 2025 intake targets. Key fundraising targets include undergraduate bursaries and international studentships expectations.

Our Pathways Scheme was scheduled for a soft relaunch in 2023, with the scope to build on this in 2023-24, for a full programme to be established in October 2024.

We were awarded £25,400 from the Trust for this project, based on the costs submitted with our application.

1. Salary contribution £14,000 (based on two years for project conception and initial set up)
2. Student Ambassador Costs £2400: (Pitched to cover four years. Ambassador cost example; £50/three hours)
3. Marketing and Web Development £4000: Specifically, to create project website and improve social media click throughs; dedicated channels.
4. Contribution to operational costs such as school transport and introduction of residential visits £5000.

Where are we now?

“Long term sustained outreach programme for years 7-11”.

“engagement with West Midlands and Cambridge”

“working together”

2022-23

From January 2023: soft launch of Pathways. Reconnect to schools that took part before the pandemic.

Connect new schools in link areas to register interest in Pathways.

Look at marketing and web development with college colleagues and source external suppliers.

Operational costs to help schools visit Girton.

Hybrid vs in person review.

Increase Student Ambassadors.

2023-24

Revisit the schools taking part in 2022-23 to build on Pathways.

Schedule first visit to newly interested schools.

Work with team at Girton to expand on pathways.

Register and train Student Ambassadors (specifically for Pathways work).

Website to be updated with Pathways landing page.

2024-25

Residential visits to Girton.

Further delivery of the programme to school networks via alumnae.

Year 12 and 13 programme extension

We have really enjoyed relaunching this scheme in 2023 and have successfully reconnected with schools that were introduced to this programme pre pandemic.

This year Pathways has been delivered in four schools from our West Midlands link area and introduced to one school from our Cambridge link school.

Bristnall Hall has fully engaged with Pathways and has been successful so far. Year 7 and Year 10 were involved last academic year and this is being widened in 2023-24, so those year groups will be revisited in Years 8 and 11, with the new intake and current year 10's being included as well. In the third year we will expand to include Year 9, meaning continuity with a student cohort for three full years.

We have planned Pathways delivery for 2023-24 too, to include five further schools (three from our West Midlands link area and one in Camden).

We have been able to assist with coach travel costs to the college which has been greatly received by the schools; “we cannot thank you enough for making this visit possible”.

Using our college resources, we are working with our communication consultant to assist us with further marketing and website development. The Pathways page is due to be live by division of Lent term. The goal will be to have resources for schools, teachers, and parents, to strengthen the Pathways programme for all involved.

We have been evaluating the programme during its delivery and working with schools and teachers to try and improve resources available to them that complement the programme.

We have a record number of ambassadors too, who are really engaged and have enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the programme.

Pathways Engagement Schools
Bristnall Hall Academy
Smiths Wood
Erdington Academy
Dormston School

Wolverhampton Grammar School
Cottenham Village College
Q3 Academy
Camden High School

Pathways delivery plan per year group:

Year group	Activity	Who	Where
7	Aspiration Day	Whole year group	Schools
8	Postcard competition/ newsletter article contribution	Whole year group	Schools and judged by School Liaison Officers
9	High attainers short essay competition	40 students per school	Schools and judged by School Liaison Officers
10	Visit to Cambridge	40 students per school	Girton College
11	Subject Matters talks and parental engagement	40 students per school	Schools

Academic year plan goal for pathways

Month	Year group	Activity
September	8	Postcard competition
	11	Subject Matters talks and parental engagement
October	7	Aspiration Days
	11	Subject Matters talks and parental engagement
November	7	Aspiration Days
	13	Interviews workshop at host school
	11	Subject Matters talks and parental engagement
December	All	Winter (Lent) newsletter to arrive in schools
	9	High attainers competition
January	7	Aspiration Days
	12	Arts masterclass at Girton College
	12	Science masterclass at Girton College
	10	Visits to Girton College
February	10	Visits to Girton College
March	10	Visits to Girton College
April	All	Summer (Easter) newsletter to arrive in schools
May	8	Writing articles to contribute to the termly newsletter
June	12	Application and personal statement workshop
July	12	Application and personal statement workshop
August	All	Autumn (Michaelmas) newsletter to arrive in schools

Target criteria

1. POLAR3 quintiles 1 and 2
2. Above average FSM (2016 data – 13.2% of school population)
3. On or above average attainment 8 score (2016 data – 48.5 points)

Areas

- Girton College's West Midlands link area schools
- Girton College's Connect to Cambridge schools

Visits to Girton College (typical programme 2023)

10.30 Arrive at Girton College & refreshments in Old Hall (Welcomed by Head of Student Services and SLO)

10.45 Higher Education talk (Admissions Tutor)

11.15 Cambridge quiz (Admissions Tutor)

11.45 Tour of College with current undergraduates

12.30 Lunch (cafeteria)

13.30 Tour of City Centre with current undergraduates

2024 Dates

Mid-February 2024: Pathways webpages launch.

May 2024: Promotion packs sent to schools for 2024-25 enrolment.

Summer 2024: Internship for evaluation (college paid internship for four weeks, not funded with NT award).