

# **Aimhigher Plus Programme**

**Smith's Wood Academy**

2018 - 2020

Aimhigher Coordinator: A. O'Donnell

Aimhigher Plus Ambassador: Kim Hardie





*Aimhigher West Midlands is a partnership of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), schools, academies and colleges. Together, we want to make sure that young people have access to high quality, exciting and challenging experiences that enhance their careers education, motivate, inspire and provide accurate and impartial information about higher education.*

You will get the chance to visit our partner colleges and universities, receive mentoring sessions in school, learn what higher education is and determine what part it could play in making your dream career a reality.



**Newman  
University**  
BIRMINGHAM



**BIRMINGHAM CITY  
University**



**UCB**  
University College Birmingham



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM**



**Aston University**  
Birmingham



**University  
of Worcester**

# Broadening Horizons



A number of Year 9 students spent the day at **Aston University** finding out about a range of careers speaking to professionals about their roles.

Students had the opportunity to speak to a range of professionals from a Tax Advisor from Deloitte, Environmental Scientist, Youth Worker and Police Sergeant.

The morning opened with motivational speaker Errol Lawson from Birmingham who inspires young people to aim and achieve high.

Errol is a best-selling author of the book '*From the Post Code to the Globe*'. Two lucky students from Smith's Wood Academy won signed copies of the book.

# Property and Construction Day



A group of Smith's Wood students visited **Birmingham City University** for the day exploring what they can do at University related to property and construction.

Students had the chance to check out the new HS2 Site & the construction sites in the surrounding areas. Birmingham is a vibrant city with many opportunities for the future. Students found out about Jobs and careers such and Architect, Surveying, Design Engineering and Site Management.



# Explore Berlin



Students were involved in the Explore Berlin project and attended 4 pre sessions held at **Aston University**. Students learned about Berlin History, brushed up their German language skills and even completed an airport simulation to prepare them for their travels. They had 4 days in Berlin and went on a historic walking tour, Berlin Zoo, Humboldt University and a street art walking tour. Each night they ate in a different restaurant and students tried new types of food including Italian, Turkish and traditional German cuisine. This experience really gave students an insider's perspective into studying abroad and has encouraged many of them to consider studying abroad in the future!

**Aimee-Mae:** *I made lots of new friends, I would definitely go again and if other students get the chance they should take up the great opportunity.*

**Faith:** *I would recommend this type of trip to other students as they can learn new things, talk to people from different backgrounds and use it as a way to be positive about the future.*

# World of STEM

**STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths**

50 Year 9 students got the chance to attend **Birmingham City University** to participate in the 'World of Stem' day. Students had the opportunity to experience a 45-minute interactive, explosive, live-action show 'Gastronaut' performed by one of the country's leading science performers. After the show they had the opportunity to explore an exhibition of over 30 STEM based employers.





# Chef Academy

Year 10 students participated in the Chef Academy at **University College Birmingham** over a six week period on Saturday mornings.

They had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed it.



# Careers & Aimhigher Intervention



A Careers & AimHigher intervention program ran for 6 weeks for 30 girls with Year 9. The girls participated in a range of activities to provide them with additional support to engage in their current learning and to inspire them for further and higher education.

The students participated in a national community research project called '*People From Round Here*' where an external agency came into school to gather the girls views and opinions on the community they live in. The findings will form part of a national picture to inform how to support young people to understand that they are part of their communities and to improve their community they have a part to play in this.

The girls spent a day at **Birmingham City University** finding out about the courses on offer, meeting student ambassadors and participating in workshops.



# UniFest

## What is Unifest?

It is an opportunity for Year 10 students to explore the world of higher education and make informed decisions about their future in their Summer holidays.

Students get the chance to spend 2/3 days at a West Midlands based university finding out about university life by staying in university halls and getting subject tasters every day. Subjects include Design, Science, Sport and Law.

Last year, XX students from Smith's Wood participated.

# Summer School

Ten students from Year 10 attended summer school at **University College Birmingham.**

Four students attended a Sports school and six students a Make-up & Beauty school.

As part of their week the Sports students went to Manchester to the National Football Museum & the Make-up students visited the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

# PGL: Revision Weekender



Students had the opportunity to go to PGL Boreatton Park in Shropshire for the weekend.

Students participated in 4 different revision sessions over the weekend with other schools around the West Midlands preparing themselves for their GCSEs and learning lots of new revision techniques to support their studies.

After the revision sessions, students participated in outdoor activities for the rest of the weekend including zip-lining, canoeing and hide-and-seek in the dark!



# Student Voice

Student Voice gives students from Smith's Wood the opportunity to have their voice heard and make a difference with the AimHigher projects and experience days.

Students will gain experience in blog writing, social media takeovers as well as representing Smith's Wood at AimHigher events being a Student Ambassador.

3 students from year 9 and 10 have been selected and will have recently met with other student ambassadors to brain storm new ideas and AimHigher events for 2020!

# Mentoring

Smith's Wood School has an AimHigher Ambassador who is based in school two days a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

During this time, the ambassador can provide and offer mentoring sessions providing impartial advice on a student's future and supporting students in their future planning for life after school.

Mentoring sessions can also include budgeting, revision techniques, post-16 options, post-18 options and stress relief.

A Smith's Wood student can be put forward by a teacher or the student can ask for extra support and AimHigher mentoring.

**If you are interested, please speak to Mrs. O'Donnell or Kim (AimHigher Ambassador) in school.**

# Future Projects

## **Continued Mentoring**

As mentioned above, AimHigher mentoring can be offered on a weekly basis throughout the year.

## **How to Think Like a Lawyer Workshops**

This session gets students to consider a 'hard case'. This class looks at a real life case where students will be shown how to compare their own interpretation of the law with that of the judges in the case.

## **Campus Experience Days**

Students will be given the opportunity to visit Aston University, Birmingham City University or University of Birmingham for the day. Each day will give the young people an insight into a day at university including a tour of the university and subject tasters into different courses.

## **Next Steps Assembly**

A Year 10 assembly that encourages students to think about their next steps after year 11. Initial assemblies will be held by a local college and gives the students a great chance to ask any questions and start thinking. Following the assembly, a series of workshops will be on offer to students looking into Budgeting, Choices and differences between college and school.

