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2019-20

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We delivered **41** different access and participation interventions and initiatives

Our outreach activity worked with **30,156** pupils, **1,417** parents and **52** teachers across over **100** schools and colleges

We had **20,371** engagements with our success activities by students

666 students participated in our progression activities

We invested **£1,082,149** in supporting disabled students and their learning

We provided **£1,922,000** of financial support to students so they can succeed on their courses

925 students benefitted from our portfolio of scholarships and bursaries

Hardship fund assisted **156** students and a further **109** students received an emergency loan

Laptop Loan scheme expanded and over **700** laptops were purchased to support students to access their learning online

We received **1** award: The Brunel Summer Internship Team won the *National Undergraduate Employability Awards 2020 Best Widening Participation Initiative*.

5 research papers were published related to our Access and Participation activities (see page 15 for details).

2. H A K A

2.1 W A O

This year we expanded our school work beyond the six west London boroughs and are now working with schools in the Thames Valley, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire. These schools have been chosen because they are situated in POLAR4 Q1 or 2 areas, which are those where the lowest number of young people go onto highest education, or where the school population has significant numbers of learners from these areas. All our target schools and colleges benefited from new online University-wide programmes, including

Our particular focus on STEM is also evidenced by ongoing sponsorship of *Heathrow Aviation Engineering UTC*. Two Link Governors from the University sit on the Governing Board which oversees safeguarding, wellbeing and the quality of education. This year they were also able to monitor how guidelines published by the Department for Education on safeguarding children during the pandemic and remote teaching were followed and applied at the UTC.

Urban Scholars is a three-year intervention programme providing enriched learning experiences for students aged 12 -18 years from schools in London and Milton Keynes. The students are selected on the basis of their academic talent or the potential for high achievement. Many of the students come from socially deprived areas where students' talents may not lead to successful examination results and high aspirations. In 2019/20 the programme:

- Hosted activities for 300 students in receipt of pupil premium across 14 Saturdays, with activities taking place either on campus or virtually.
- Delivered Science and Technology sessions to all groups with some delivered in the Brunel STEM Centre and as a result 84% of students opted to choose STEM subjects at a higher level.
- Organised workshops including a July Summer Careers Festival, with more than 20 employees from our Moody's sponsor delivering employability skills and online communication skills.
- Supported 12 Scholars to attend the London University 2020 Virtual Summer School for Medicine, Economics and Maths.

Our *Young Scholars* programme focuses on raising aspirations and improving the life chances of primary school children through greater parental engagement.

It aims to increase aspirations, attainment and wellbeing that are all strongly inter-linked. The programme is based on the belief and evidence that it is vital to lay early foundations to prepare children to be intellectually confident which would ultimately influence their trajectories, especially their orientation to Higher Education. This year we provided 1,400 parents with resources, materials and face to face support. A link to Brunel University You Tube film in which Professor Valsa Koshy discussed seven ways to help children succeed was sent to all 20,000 Schools in England for them to share with parents.

2.3 P

The *Professional Mentoring Programme* has two main strands of career-focused mentoring, one focused on face-to-face mentoring and one focused on e-mentoring. Both strands draw on experienced professionals from private and public sector employers to mentor FHEQ Level 5 and Level 6 undergraduates from widening access backgrounds. Students engage with their mentor from November to May, and in 2019/20 285 students engaged with mentoring, a 50% increase compared to the previous year. In response to the challenges generated by the pandemic, our face-to-face mentors agreed to have e-mentoring added to their profile, which increased the number of mentors available to mentees.

The *Brunel Summer Internship Programme (BSIP)* is an employability focused project that has been running since 2014 and offers eligible first year undergraduate students a range of employability workshops and the opportunity of an eight-week paid internship during the summer. The programme had a successful year despite numerous challenges, with 209 of the 306 starters completing the programme of employability workshops and 87 students successfully completing summer internships (which is just five fewer than the previous year). A particular highlight for the BSIP team was winning the first *National Undergraduate Employability Awards 2020 Best Widening Participation Initiative*, an excellent achievement recognising the dedication of the team.

Following a successful pilot year, the *KickStart programme* continued in 2019/20 offering career coaching to recent graduates. The aim of the programme was to contact recent graduates from a targeted group of under-represented students 8-12 months after graduation and to offer them the opportunity

3. C -19 Cr O R

3.1 A

Whilst there were challenges in engaging schools and young people at a time when teachers were under immense pressure, we also discovered that moving our outreach activities online had some benefits. For example, we were able to participate in school assemblies and attend multiple schools in different parts of the country on the same day, thereby reaching many more young people than we otherwise would have done. We also developed a range of online resources from primary to sixth form, which can be shared with schools and accessed at any time.

3.2 S

Our main concern during spring and summer 2020 was to continue offering support

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