



Annual Report

2022-23



www.kmpf.org

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It's not often you work with a partner that really puts the young person at the centre of what they're doing. KMPF are passionate about higher education. They want to take a young person from an area that doesn't have a high intake of university entrants and support them to get there. It's been great working with them and watching the partnership go from strength to strength.



Michael Ward, Head of Football & Sports Development, Charlton Athletic Community Trust

Foreword

I am proud to present the Kent & Medway Progression Federation (KMPF) Annual Report for 2022-23.

Through our partnership with Higher Education providers, colleges, schools and community organisations, we aim to support the aspirations and attainment of young people across Kent and Medway.

Over the past year, our collaborative outreach efforts have grown stronger and more impactful than ever before.

We continue to work hard to understand and address the unique challenges that under-represented groups in Higher Education face. We firmly believe that all young people who have the potential to benefit from university, should be given the opportunities to make informed choices about their future.

Furthermore, the increased Office for Students (OfS) focus on attainment has led us to introduce a number of new initiatives, designed to target support where it is most needed.

I thank our dedicated staff and partners who have made these collaborative outreach efforts possible. With your support, we can make an even bigger impact in the years to come.

Gavin Delf
KMPF Hub Manager



105,957

The total number of students KMPF partners have worked with since 2010-11



41%

Of students from areas of low progression who participated in 4 or more activities progressed to higher education. (expected HE entry years 2011-21)

*Source: KMPF HEAT Data





The core KMPF team facilitates outreach work in partner schools and colleges across Kent and Medway, builds relationships with likeminded community organisations and measures the impact of our combined collaborative activity.

What We Do

The Kent & Medway Progression Federation (KMPF) is a collaborative partnership of the higher education providers serving Kent & Medway.

Our partner universities provide outreach opportunities for our partner schools and colleges. KMPF is governed by a strategic board, which ratifies the allocation of Uni Connect funding between partners and sets the strategic direction of the partnership. The board has an independent Chair with expert knowledge of the sector, with membership from the four university partners, two colleges, five schools and a representative from Higher Education Access Tracker.

The board takes guidance from three sub-groups, Finance and Funding, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting and Operational Management, which ensure the funding and delivery is maximised to reach as many young people as possible.

The core KMPF team, funded by Uni Connect and partner universities, facilitates outreach work in partner schools and colleges across Kent and Medway, builds relationships with

like minded community organisations and measures the impact of our combined collaborative activity.

Each of our schools and colleges serve areas of high need, where young people are likely to experience several barriers in their journey towards considering, applying to and accessing higher education. We believe that these are the young people for whom we can collectively make the greatest impact.

KMPF Partner Universities



Our outreach initiatives are aimed at increasing both attainment and progression amongst those who are under-represented in higher education.

These students include:

- Students from low socio-economic backgrounds
- Students who are the first in their immediate family to go to university
- Students with a disability
- Students who are care experienced
- Service children
- Refugees/unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

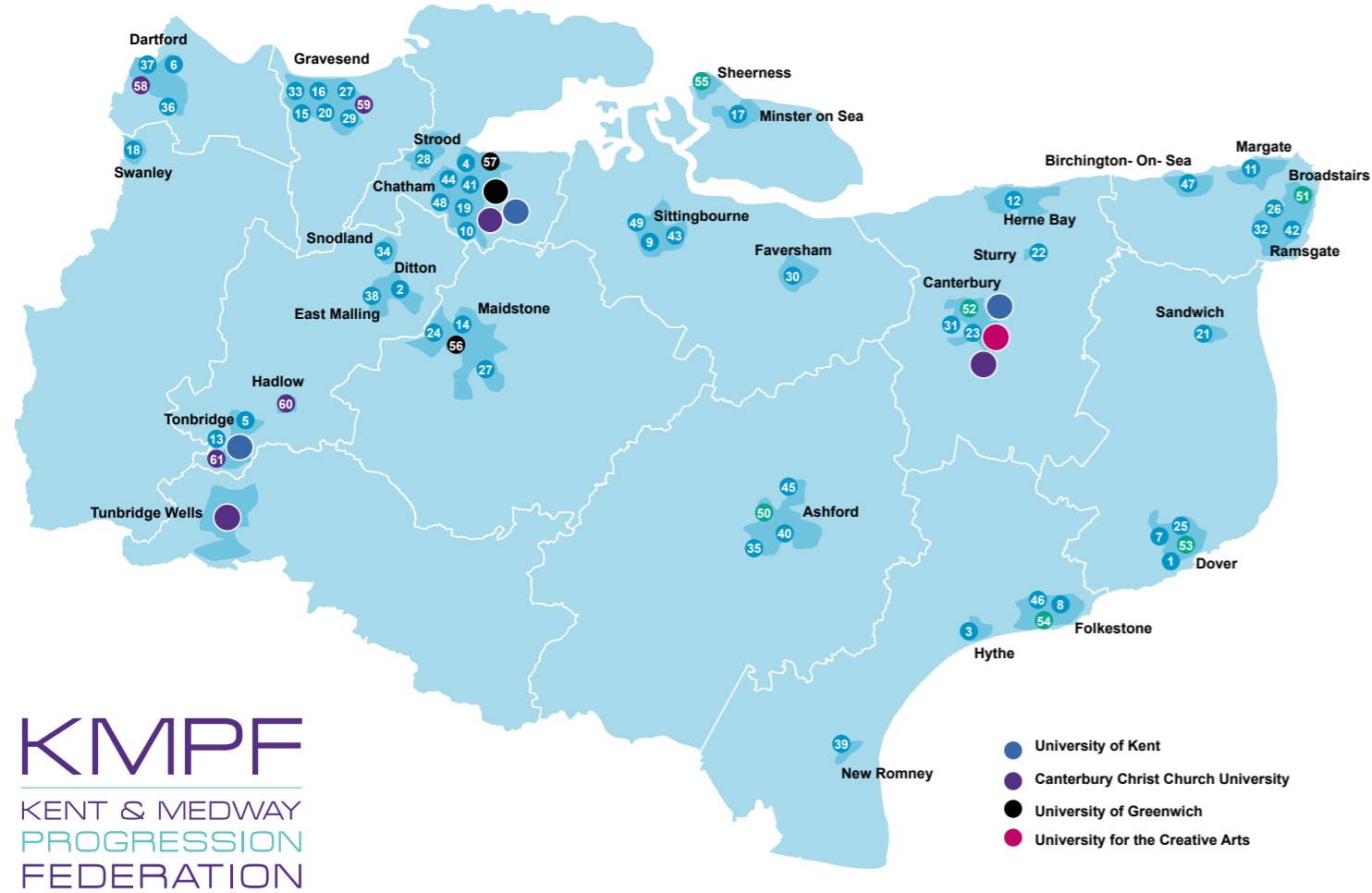


The Kent & Medway Progression Federation has been a pivotal part of our careers programme year after year. They have provided us with direct access to universities, talks by professionals and workshops on university life. KMPF has helped to continually aid in raising the aspirations of our young people and help them decide on their future destinations.



Kim Mace-Baker, Work Experience & Business Mentor Coordinator, The Leigh Academy

Who We Work With



KMPF KENT & MEDWAY PROGRESSION FEDERATION

- 1 Astor Secondary School
- 2 Aylesford School
- 3 Brockhill Park Performing Arts College
- 4 Brompton Academy
- 5 Cornwallis Academy
- 6 Dartford Science & Technology College
- 7 Dover Christ Church Academy
- 8 Folkestone Academy
- 9 Fulston Manor School
- 10 Greenacre Academy
- 11 Hartsdown Academy
- 12 Herne Bay High School
- 13 Hugh Christie School
- 14 New Line Learning Academy
- 15 Northfleet School for Girls
- 16 Northfleet Technology College
- 17 Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey
- 18 Orchards Academy
- 19 PGW Partnership of Greenacre and Walderslade
- 20 Saint George's Church of England School
- 21 Sandwich Technology School
- 22 Spires Academy
- 23 St Anselm's Catholic School
- 24 St Augustine Academy
- 25 St Edmund's Catholic School

- 26 St George's Church of England School
- 27 St John's Catholic Comprehensive
- 28 Strood Academy
- 29 Thamesview School
- 30 The Abbey School
- 31 The Canterbury Academy
- 32 The Charles Dickens School
- 33 The Ebbsfleet Academy
- 34 The Holmesdale School
- 35 The John Wallis Church of England Academy
- 36 The Leigh Academy
- 37 The Leigh UTC
- 38 The Malling School
- 39 The Marsh Academy
- 40 The North School
- 41 The Robert Napier School
- 42 The Royal Harbour Academy
- 43 The Sittingbourne School
- 44 The Victory Academy
- 45 Towers School and Sixth Form Centre
- 46 Turner Free School
- 47 Ursuline College
- 48 Walderslade Girls' School
- 49 Westlands School

EKC GROUP

- 50 Ashford College
- 51 Broadstairs College
- 52 Canterbury College
- 53 Dover Technical College
- 54 Folkestone College
- 55 Sheppey College

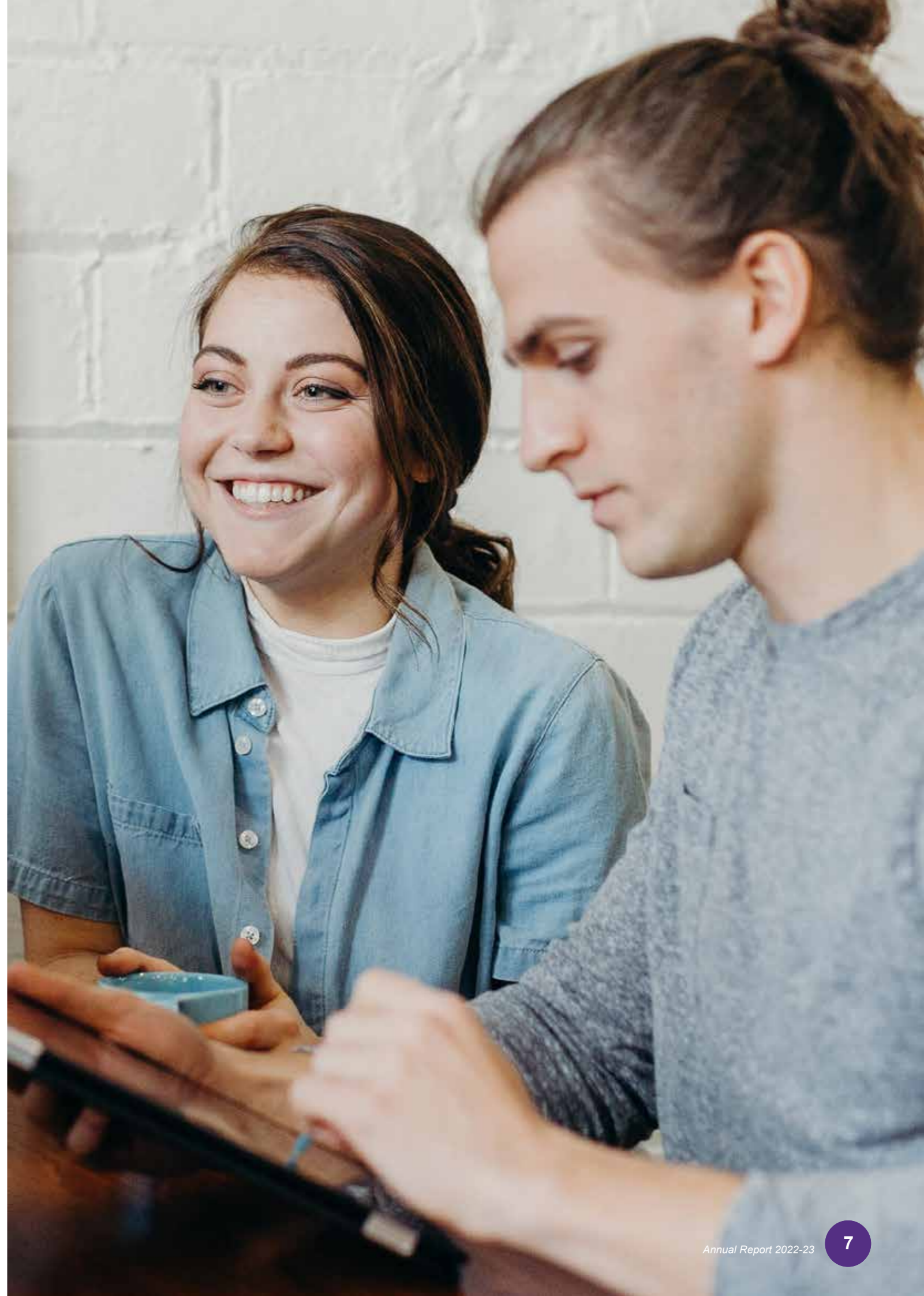


MidKent College

- 56 Maidstone Campus
- 57 Medway Campus

NKC NORTH KENT COLLEGE

- 58 Dartford Campus
- 59 Gravesend Campus
- 60 Hadlow College
- 61 Tonbridge Campus



Our Work With Schools

We work with 49 partner schools across Kent and Medway to support the progression of under-represented groups into Higher Education.

The KMPF schools team support teachers and other professionals to understand the partnership outreach offer and build a bespoke package of activities, which complement their existing careers offer.

Strategic Focus for 2022-23

Our work in 2022-23 focused on providing independent information and guidance, targeted support for under-represented groups and piloting approaches to raising attainment in partnership with secondary schools.

Independent information and guidance

The provision of independent information and guidance about higher education is crucial for students in our partner schools as it enables them to make more informed decisions about their future. All of our four partner universities provide this service. Two examples are showcased below.

The University of Greenwich's Year 10 myth busting workshops achieved this on a large scale and sought to provide accurate information about financing university study, applying for a place at university and student life.

University of Greenwich Workshops:

 **2,597**

No. of students reached in schools

Our universities have different areas of expertise, and this provides schools with a variety of opportunities to choose from.

In addition, KMPF organise events and conferences for teachers which provide an opportunity for them to hear directly from university practitioners and share best practice with one another.

 **12,340**

Total number of students engaged through schools in 2022-23

*Source: KMPF HEAT Data

The Succeed programme, run by the University of Kent, aimed to help Level 3 students make informed decisions about their future. The six-month programme consisted of online and in-person workshops and a three-night residential on their Canterbury campus. It introduced students to different themes each month to take them through the key stages of deciding their next steps.

Evaluation demonstrates that the programme provided students with the information and skills they need to undertake their own continuing research and information gathering about their future choices. Participants also considered that they were better prepared to make decisions and indicated a real development in personal skills and confidence.

“

I feel like, before this, I had no clue what I wanted to do. And now, I've got more options to consider. And I feel like I'm much more ahead than where I was before I joined the programme.

”

Succeed Student, 2022





Our Work With Schools



The low progression of boys from working-class areas into Higher Education is a historical issue that dates back decades, and yet there hasn't really been much focus from an outreach or access perspective. The funds allocated by KMPF have given us the space and scope to explore it further.



Francesca Plom, University of Kent

Targeted support for under-represented groups

A number of approaches were taken during the year to reach specific under-represented groups through schools.

A pilot project was launched at two Kent schools to support and strengthen the educational experiences of boys from low socio-economic backgrounds. Championing Boys was designed to allow students to explore a variety of different potential identities through the exploration of subjects which extend past traditional curriculum and link into potential future careers.

The project, led by the University of Kent, saw 15 boys take part in a series of workshops and a visit to the university's campus. The university is also part of the Boys Impact Coalition, a national network which aims to further advance this area of work and provide a forum for best practice sharing.

Our Work With Schools

Raising attainment in partnership with schools

The OfS have asked university partnerships to work with schools to develop innovative approaches to raising the attainment of pre-16 students. This year we collaboratively delivered two attainment raising pilots, with all our Higher Education providers; Change Makers and Making Your Point. The evaluations of these pilots have helped to inform and shape future delivery.

Change Makers is an initiative that specifically aims to enhance literacy and academic achievement among year 7 students. The project was designed and developed as a collaboration between Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich and delivered in three partner schools. Initial findings from the evaluation show improvements in academic resilience towards reading for purpose and understanding the value of reading to wider curriculum subjects.

The celebration event for Change Makers held at the Canterbury Christ Church University campus gave participants the opportunity to showcase their work to peers from other schools, parents and teachers.

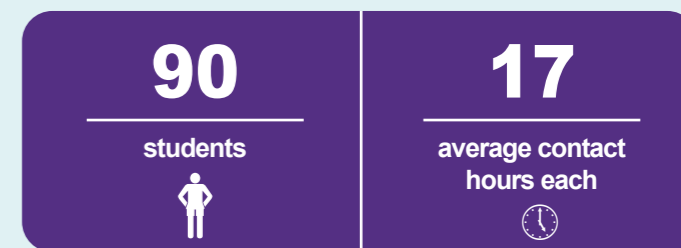
Making Your Point was developed as a seven-week project for year 10 students in three partner schools where participants were given the opportunity to explore ethical issues and social change through art and debating. The project was developed by the University of Kent and the University for the Creative Arts and supported schools in re-engaging students in their education.

All the students who took part in the programme achieved a Discover or Bronze level Arts Award certificate. In the evaluation, participants found that the programme helped with their confidence in speaking and arguing a point, creative skills and had a better understanding of what a university is like.



Professor Rama Thirunamachandran, Vice-Chancellor of CCCU, presenting Change Makers certificates with staff from Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey, The Holmesdale School, and Hartsdown Academy

Combined statistics for attainment raising programmes delivered in 2022-23



I really enjoyed this experience because I learnt new skills and improved my confidence when speaking to new people.

Making Your Point Student



Future work with schools

We aim to continue to support our partner schools to provide information and guidance to their students about higher education. We will continue to give young people the opportunity to visit our partner university campuses and engage with relatable university students and academics.

Our attainment raising work, informed by the evaluation of Making Your Point and Change Makers, will focus on improving STEM and Literacy outcomes for students in 11 schools across Kent and Medway. As part of this work, we will be piloting a continued professional development programme for teachers with the National Literacy Trust to support teachers focusing on interdisciplinary literacy.

Working closely with our school colleagues we will continue to develop specialist interventions to support under-represented groups to progress to higher education.

Our Work With Colleges

Our Uni Connect Project Officers are based within the three Further Education College (FEC) groups within our region: EKC Group, MidKent College and North Kent College.

They undertake the crucial task of coordinating targeted higher education support and delivering various activities within colleges. Together, they engage 5,000 students and deliver around 1,000 contact hours throughout each year.

The Project Officer's role is to organise a sustained and progressive programme of targeted activities to meet the needs of students - especially those from underrepresented groups. They also work in collaboration with universities and other partners to coordinate sessions, talks and off-site visits.

There are three strands to our work in colleges: **Removing Barriers**, **Broadening Horizons** and **Making Informed Choices**.

Aim	Removing Barriers To address barriers and increase confidence/self-belief.	Broadening Horizons To increase exposure to opportunities and increase social/cultural capital by working with industry experts and those who have overcome challenges to achieve success in their chosen field.	Making Informed Choices To offer higher education insight and information.
	KMPF Delivery	<p>Future You: A programme that has been designed to enable Level 3 students to develop their self-awareness, equipping them with the knowledge, tools and confidence to make proactive choices about their future.</p> <p>Step Up: A series of 6 sessions designed for Level 2 students to raise aspirations and enable students to strive to achieve them.</p>	<p>Curriculum enhancement visits: From visits to galleries, theatres and exhibitions, to TV Studios and the Big Cat Sanctuary.</p> <p>Employer-led sessions: Industry experts provide up-to-date information on life in the sector and the range of opportunities available.</p> <p>Inspirational speakers: These offer students the chance to hear from others who share their experiences in overcoming challenges.</p>

"Future You made me realise what I wanted to do in life."

"The speakers who came to college made me look at things differently."

"I got an understanding of how uni works with a good tour of the campus itself. I got lots of information and it encouraged me to progress."

Our Impact in Colleges

2021-22 Exit Survey Statistics

Each year, towards the end of their course in college, students complete an exit survey to evaluate their experience with KMPF and partners



- 76%** agreed taking part had 'increased my knowledge and awareness of higher education.'
- 71%** agreed taking part had helped 'support and prepare me to make informed choices about my future.'
- 59%** agreed taking part had helped 'to encourage me to apply to HE now or in the future.'
- 56%** agreed taking part had helped 'with my personal development. e.g. building confidence, resilience and/or well-being.'

Statistics from the 2021-22 exit survey.

The FE Model in Action

In the past, around 10-15% of students pursuing the BTEC Extended Diploma in Engineering at the Gravesend Campus, North Kent College, used to progress to university. However, there has been a significant positive change due to the efforts of the Uni Connect Project Officer who has been closely engaging with the students.

A comprehensive package of activities has been implemented, which includes Future You, campus visits, talks from industry experts (such as the Institute of Civil Engineering), a UCAS Discovery Visit, careers fairs, and sessions delivered by university partners.

This year 100% are moving into a positive destination, with 61% moving into higher level study (university or Degree Apprenticeships).

““

The impact that KMPF makes to my class alone is immeasurable, so the impact across the college must be immense.

””

Construction Lecturer, MidKent College

““

The work has been instrumental in raising the aspirations of our learners, whilst supporting their engagement with education and overall achievements.

””

Paul Owen, Principal of Dover Technical College

““

Everyone at the college has been so helpful and supportive. Anything you need, they're always there for you.

””

Hasan Kaso, Student, North Kent College



Third Party Providers

KMPF work with a range of third party providers who are specialists in their field. These organisations have supported us to reach under represented groups, develop new projects and produce resources for key target audiences. In 2022-23, KMPF worked with over 20 third party providers including: The Big Cat Sanctuary, The British Youth Council, Charlton Athletic Community Trust, The Careers and Enterprise Company, The National Literacy Trust, CXK, The Princes Trust, ThinkForward, and Willowbank Education.

Charlton Athletic Community Trust, Canterbury Christ Church University, University of Greenwich and University of Kent

The Sport and Higher Education Programme delivered by Charlton Athletic Community Trust and funded through Uni Connect supported male students from lower socio-economic areas at 11 partner schools. The programme gave participants, in years 9 to 11, an understanding of the careers available in the sport sector and how higher education can support them to gain employment in the industry. Three partner universities were involved in the delivery of event days. We were proud to be awarded 'Partner of the Year at the Charlton Athletic Community Trust (CACT) Awards for our joint work on this project.

Programme Stats:

<h2>176</h2> <p>males from areas of high deprivation participated in the programme</p> 	<h2>5</h2> <p>average contact hours each</p> 
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Laura Charter, KMPF Schools and Partnerships Lead, accepting the CACT Partner of the Year award from Keith Wisdom, CEO of KWisdom Consulting.

Canterbury Christ Church University and Willowbank Education

Willowbank Education offered engaging educational experiences to year 8 students in an outdoor setting. Participants took part in a fishing and forest school, followed by an experience at Canterbury Christ Church University's science laboratories. The programme aimed to reduce perceived barriers to HE study, while also increasing wellbeing, engagement in learning, a sense of self and a more positive view of education.

"This student has had a massive change to his attitude and engagement in lessons. They are now calm, engaged and wanting to learn. A massive improvement!"

Teacher from a participating school

Big Cat Sanctuary

Throughout 2022-23, Animal Management students from all three of the college groups in Kent and Medway took part in a new project with The Big Cat Sanctuary. Over 200 students were involved in a series of workshops across 3 days in each college.

The project aimed to support students develop their research, presentation, and communication skills, while also learning valuable information about conservation work to protect threatened species.

The final day of the workshops saw students present their ideas to students, tutors and staff from the Big Cat Sanctuary. The students were able to overcome their nerves to communicate their conservation proposals and present their social media videos. Many of the students also received the opportunity to visit the Big Cat Sanctuary to see conservation in action.

"It was quite something to see the personal development achieved in many of our learners over these three days."

Josephine Saunders, Head of Animal Management at Hadlow College

University for the Creative Arts and ThinkForward

The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) collaborated with ThinkForward to offer a Business Mentoring programme for young people at a partner school. Over 6 sessions Business Mentors supported young people, aged 14-15 identified as most at risk of dropping out of education, to develop positive behaviours and skills required for the workplace. Mentors were UCA staff members from a range of different roles and departments at UCA's Canterbury campus, including both academic and professional support staff and student ambassadors.

Support for Disabled Students

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Progression Partnership (SEND PP), led by KMPF, is a collaborative partnership of organisations committed to improving the post-16/18 education and career opportunities of disabled students in Kent and Medway. Formed in 2020-21, our partners include student ambassadors, all universities in Kent and Medway STAART, CXK, CEC, Local Authorities, The Education

People and a range of other organisations committed to improving the progression opportunities for disabled students. The SEND PP's overarching aim is to support the transition to higher education (HE) for disabled learners by promoting HE, post-16 education and career-related opportunities.

Key achievements to date include:

- 12 webinars from 6 different organisations
- SEND PP newsletter circulated 3 times annually
- Disabled zones on the KMPF Website
- Including Higher Education in Kent and Medway's Local Offer
- Universities adapting their materials to include opportunities for disabled students
- Facilitating Thomas Pocklington Trust report on Technology and Accessibility in FE
- Collaborating with the British Youth Council on a young person led project (Access and Assistance for All)
- 'The Guide' to HE for disabled students in Kent and Medway

SEND PP Resources

In 2022-23, our student ambassadors have co-produced a series of resources to support the transition and experience of disabled students in universities.

These include an animated video aimed at Year 9-11 students, a video on making the most of university as a disabled student and a series of blog posts on topics including academic support, student life and personal development at university.

Use the QR code below to view our SEND PP Resources.



View our SEND PP Resources



"If I'd known universities were as supportive as they are when I was at school, it would have been so helpful."

Alice Lundy, Students' Union President, Canterbury Christ Church University

Support for Care Experienced Students

At KMPF, we're proud to support a collaborative project with Canterbury Christ Church University, the University for the Creative Arts and the University of Kent which supports progression to higher education for care-experienced young people. We are also proud to be a member of the Care Leaver Progression Partnership (CLPP).

CPD Sessions

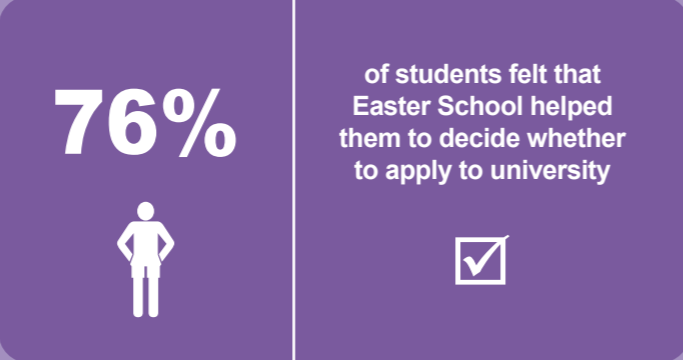
As part of this project, we regularly held professional development workshop sessions for organisations, foster carers and those working with children in care. The workshops covered a range of topics – from decision-making to applying to university and student finance, with participants from Virtual School Kent, Medway Virtual School, The Young Lives Foundation, and Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN).

Opening Doors Workshops

Alongside this we ran a free workshop series, designed to help foster carers understand more about higher education. The workshops aimed to help foster carers support their young people's decision making and covered topics such as university life as a care leaver, understanding student finance and the UCAS application process. In 2022-23, almost 40 foster carers attended across our two cohorts.

Easter School

The annual collaborative Easter School is exclusively for care experienced students. The Easter School aims to raise social confidence and academic aspirations while being both fun and interactive. It also raises awareness about the opportunities and support available at university. In 2022-23, 14 students attended the two day event.



Support for Service Children

In 2022-23 we started work to launch a new project to improve the support service children receive in education settings in Kent and Medway. The Service Children's Progression (SCiP) South East Hub, when launched, will identify and respond to the unique challenges that can be experienced by Armed Forces families and explore how this impacts their education. It will link into the national SCiP Alliance Network, which looks to improve support and drive policy change across the UK on behalf of service children.

There are a number of organisations we have been working with initially to bring the hub to life, these include:

SCiP Alliance, Service Children in State schools (SCISS), Cheriton Primary School, Turner Free School, Canterbury Christ Church University, University of Kent, University of the Creative Arts, Folkestone and Hythe District Council and the Ministry of Defence.


In 2023-24 the hub will officially launch, and will be chaired by Angela Maxted the former Head at Cheriton Primary School, who has worked extensively with service children and families throughout her career as well as driving the agenda nationally. We are looking to further develop our plans with key stakeholders and secure funding to support the work of the hub and related projects.



Statistics for 2022-23


18,419

Total number of students engaged
47% Male 53% Female



10,168


Number of students from under-represented postcodes



Number of students and contact hours by strand


539

Uni Connect Intensive Projects for under-represented groups




6

average contact hours each




11,909

Uni Connect funded outreach:




1.5

average contact hours each




7,593

University funded general outreach:



2


average contact hours each



1,426

No. of activities delivered




Students by year group

Year Group	Percentage of Total Students %
Year Group 07	4%
Year Group 08	7%
Year Group 09	11%
Year Group 10	15%
Year Group 11	10%
Year Group 12 / 13 (including FE Colleges)	48%


%

Percentage of Activities by Type

Skills and Attainment	64%
General HE Information	22%
HE Campus Visits	7%
Exhibitions	4%
HE Subject Insight	3%
Mentoring	1%
Summer School	0.3%

3,678

Total contact hours delivered



Number of schools and colleges reached

48 Schools
12 College Campuses



Number of third party providers involved

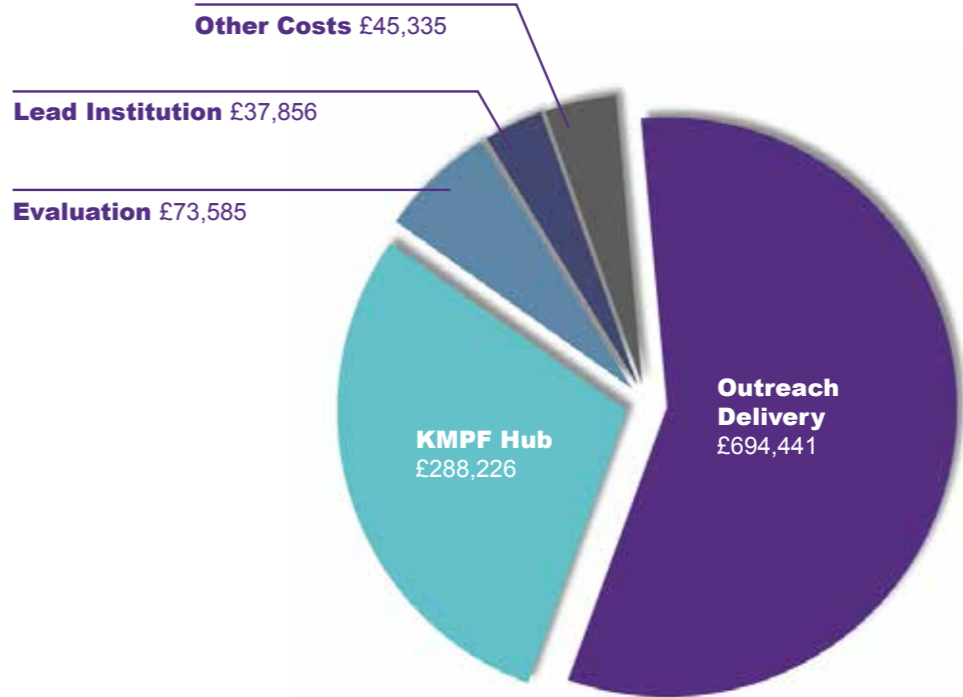
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Finance

KMPF is funded by the Office for Students (OfS) as part of the national Uni Connect programme. During the 2022-23 academic year the KMPF total expenditure was £1.1m, a 21% decrease on 2021-22 funding. The funding provided by the OfS for the Uni Connect programme was reduced nationally from £60m to £40m, resulting in a reduction of funds for each Uni Connect partnership.

Apart from one post, the partnership was able to retain the team delivering activities to young people in our targeted schools and colleges. The delivery was a mixture of online and face-to-face activities, which resulted from the reduction in funding. The OfS intend to fund the Uni Connect programme through to the end of 2024-25, with funding levels decided on a year-by-year basis.

2022-23 expenditure of £1,139,443 was used as follows:



Evaluation

Thank you to all schools and colleges who have provided data in order to help us evaluate our collective impact. The core Monitoring and Evaluation team works in partnership with university partners to evaluate collaborative delivery. Our latest evaluations can be viewed on the Impact and Evaluation section of the KMPF website.



View the KMPF Impact and Evaluation Page



www.kmpf.org

Kent & Medway Progression Federation (KMPF)

North Holmes Road, Canterbury, CT1 1QU

T: 01227 782565

E: kmpf@canterbury.ac.uk

 @KMPFederation

 Search Kent & Medway Progression Federation

