

Southern Universities Network  
University of Southampton  
Highfield Campus  
Southampton  
SO17 1BJ

**September 2021**

**Southern Universities Network; Uni Connect Programme**

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you to let you know about an outreach project your child is participating in. Uni Connect aims to support young people in your local area to progress into higher education (HE). By higher education we mean any qualification higher than A-levels or equivalent (e.g. Higher National Diplomas, Higher Degree Apprenticeships and University Degrees). The programme is funded by the Office for Students (OfS - <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/promoting-equal-opportunities/uni-connect/>).

**What is the Southern Universities Network?**

The Southern Universities Network (SUN) is a collaborative partnership comprising universities, local authorities, colleges and schools in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight, and has been established to support the Government's ambitions to make faster progress nationally to widen access to higher education through the Uni Connect Programme (<https://www.sunoutreach.org/>).

**What do I need to know?**

The project has the support of the Headteacher / Principal at your child's school. A key part of this project is to understand if our outreach activities have a positive effect on progression to both post-16 and post-18 education choices. We have asked your child to take part by allowing us to track their educational journey. We will use this information to measure regional higher education participation and link this with SUN outreach participation. Further information can be found in the SUN parent / carer information booklet [here](#).

**To find out more about the SUN Uni Connect programme at your child's school, please contact the designated SUN Single Point of Contact (SPoC) Sallie Connachie at [sac@henrycort.org](mailto:sac@henrycort.org).**

**What opportunities will there be?**

The SUN SPoC will be organising activities such as talks, workshops and 1:1 education and career support. In addition to this, there will be other activities such as summer schools, online activities and talks from universities and apprenticeship providers.

**Are there parent and carer activities?**

We invite you to attend our upcoming parent and carer events in the 2021-22 academic year which can be found on our website [www.sunoutreach.org](http://www.sunoutreach.org)

**Should you have any concerns or comments resulting from your child's participation in this outreach programme, please reference ERGO ID (University of Southampton): 30036 and contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).**

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [SUN@soton.ac.uk](mailto:SUN@soton.ac.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Claire O'Neill  
**Head of Southern Universities Network**