



What is Study Higher and why do we work with specific ethnic groups?

Study Higher is part of the national widening participation partnership known as **Uni Connect**. We deliver impartial outreach programmes to young people who are underrepresented in higher education. Our initiatives with pupils from specific ethnic backgrounds address both national and regional needs to reduce disparities in higher education (HE), increase representation in specific job sectors, and empower young people to make informed decisions about their higher education options and career choices. Our Pioneers programme consists of two strands that engage students through interactive workshops, inspiring talks, and engagement with positive role models. One strand focuses on Black African, Caribbean, or mixed students, while the other targets Bangladeshi, Pakistani, or mixed female students.

Study Higher's Pioneers outreach 2023/24



Pioneers in STEM Employers Day Buckinghamshire New University, Aylesbury 20th June 2024

An event for Black African, Caribbean, or mixed students to explore STEM careers, build confidence, and hear from STEM role models.



Pioneers in STEM HE Day Buckinghamshire New University, High Wycombe 26th June 2024

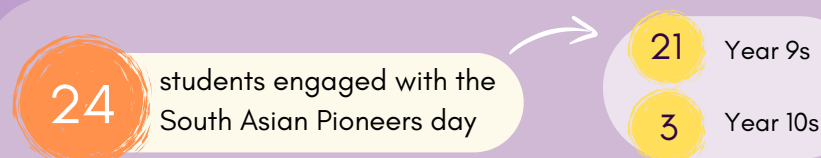
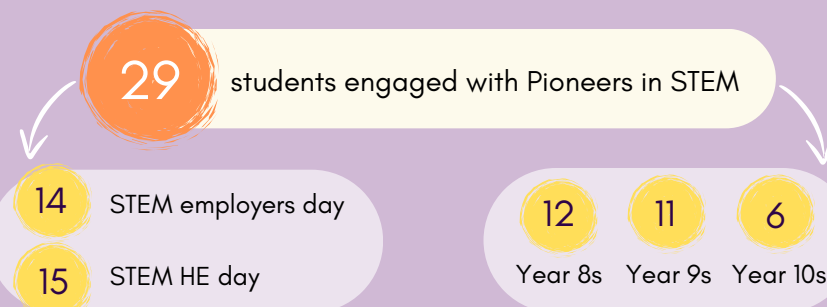
A university STEM taster day for Black African, Caribbean, or mixed pupils to explore STEM courses, pathways into HE, and experience campus facilities and university life.



South Asian Pioneers Day Buckinghamshire New University, High Wycombe 11th July 2024

HE day to empower Bangladeshi and Pakistani girls by exploring the benefits of higher education, hearing from student ambassadors and positive role models, and experiencing university campus life.

Who have we engaged with?



Who was involved?



Pioneers: Study Higher's impact in 2023/24



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NEW UNIVERSITY
EST. 1891

STUDY
HIGHER

Pioneers programme

Overall impact

100%

of pupils indicated that the event they attended helped them

100%

of teachers and employers would recommend the events to other schools and employers



Pupils confirmed an increase in knowledge and understanding of university and STEM careers, compared to before the events

Subject engagement - STEM

Insight into HE and professions

I didn't really understand what STEM was about because I knew what it stood for but now I have a deeper understanding on STEM
- Student

Made them more aware and open to STEM opportunities
- Teacher



At the end of the event more pupils agreed that they knew what to do in order to progress into a STEM career

29%

Agreed pre event

100%

Agreed post event

HE awareness and benefits

Asian Pioneers

It has widened my knowledge about university and different career paths
- Student

83%

of pupils said that the day helped them

The experience broadened my knowledge about career paths, university life, future plans and helped me understand myself better and how to utilise those traits to my advantage
- Student

HE awareness and benefits

Pioneers in STEM

Open an opportunity of awareness that will spark curiosity and encourage STEM choices
- Teacher

It taught me about what it's like to be in uni and what I want to do
- Student



A greater number of pupils agreed that after the HE day, they knew a lot more about university STEM courses

0%

Agreed pre event

100%

Agreed post event

Sense of belonging

HE is for people 'like me'



A greater number of pupils strongly agreed they would be happy studying at university after the event

Asian Pioneers

66%

Pre event

83%

Post event

Pioneers in STEM

29%

Pre event

85%

Post event

Confidence and motivation

For current and future learning

Very informative and opened my eyes to new opportunities
- Student

A great deal of difference, it got them thinking more seriously about their professional future
- Teacher

Because it gives kids the confidence they can do it too!
- Teacher

Pioneers: Next steps for 2024/25



Following the positive feedback and impact of the Pioneers programme, we will run further events this academic year to continue engaging with these underrepresented groups. Further details on the events, including dates, locations, and registration information, will be shared in due course.

Pioneers in STEM

April/May 2025

Year 9s and 10s

A STEM event designed to empower young people from Black African, Caribbean and mixed-race backgrounds, in Years 9 and 10. Students will have the opportunity to meet employers as well as STEM role models and university student ambassadors.

Future Pioneers

April/May 2025

Year 12s

A campus event designed for Black African, Caribbean, and mixed-race Year 12s. Students will participate in interactive sessions on university applications, bursaries, and scholarship opportunities, enjoy a campus tour, and learn about university facilities and student support services.

South Asian Pioneers

April/May 2025

Year 10s

A university campus event designed to inspire and empower Year 10 Pakistani and Bangladeshi girls through a series of activities aimed at breaking down barriers, encouraging informed decisions about higher education options, self awareness and development of a growth mindset.