



Aimhigher Summer Schools

 **Weblinks**
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Workshop Context:

Summer schools provide an exciting opportunity to raise aspirations and provide a real experience of university life for young people from under-represented social groups. Parents who do not have a history of HE in their family may have concerns about their child not fitting in, being isolated or not having their needs met. Summer schools can help alleviate some of these concerns. Involving parents in the overall programme and providing them with a series of activities can be highly beneficial.

This workshop reflected upon the Aiming4uni in Furness Programme which includes a summer school for 48 year 10 pupils and builds in parent / guardian and family activities into the overall programme. The Aiming4uni in Furness Programme is a collaborative partnership with Aimhigher Cumbria, Barrow Excellence Cluster Partnership, Cumbria 14-19 Pathfinder and all Secondary Schools in Furness.

 For further information on Aiming4uni in Furness:
Nadine Baxter-Smallwood, Furness Area Leader, Aimhigher ... Cumbria, Barrow 6th Form College, Rating Lane, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9LE



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www.ifonlyi.cumbria.ac.uk

 For further information on Aimhigher Summer Schools in the North West:



<http://www.nws Summerschools4me.com/>

 For information from Action on Access about Summer Schools and their handbook outlining a host of practical issues:



http://www.actiononaccess.org/?p=1_5_5



Top Tips & Key Issues

1. Support for Schools

To enable schools to recruit pupils to summer schools, summer school practitioners should:

- ✓ Arrange a meeting combined with a campus visit for teachers so they are updated on the HE issues and what a HE environment is like
- ✓ Give clear selection criteria guidelines for summer schools
- ✓ Ask what support schools would like to minimise the amount of time schools have to invest within supporting the summer schools.

2. Briefing Event for parents: Practicalities, Questions & Networking

A briefing event about summer schools allows parents to:

- ✓ Receive information about the purpose and benefits of summer schools
- ✓ Find out about practicalities & information about the summer school programme
- ✓ Begin to ask questions about higher education
- ✓ Meet other parents and begin to realise that they are not alone in their concerns and hopes

3. Campus Visit

At the end of the summer school it is valuable to invite parents for a campus visit. This allows families to experience HE together and gives them an opportunity to:

- ✓ Learn more about higher education from their young people
- ✓ Meet and celebrate their young people's achievements
- ✓ Have a guided tour of the campus from their own young people, who can show their family where they have been living
- ✓ Ask questions about higher education
- ✓ Express their views about the experience and voice outstanding concerns

4. Maintaining the Families HE agenda

There are many ways that you can continue to enthuse and maintain discussions on HE within the family. Examples include:

- ✓ Making a DVD capturing footage of the summer school that their young person was in attendance, to be given to their parents. This form of visual keepsake allows the extended family to witness and therefore also feel apart of the HE experience.
- ✓ A reunion event following up on further information / needs of parents allows families to raise subsequent questions after having time to reflect on the summer school experience.

5. Buddy System

Higher Education can be a daunting prospect; a buddy system in addition to summer schools can be beneficial. This can be in the form of e-mentoring.

① For further information about the **Aiming4uni in Furness Summer School** see  www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/projects/NW%20Aimhigher.htm#Aiming4uni

Prepared on behalf of Aimhigher Lancashire

For other Information Sheets

This is one of 5 Information Sheets prepared following the 'Valuing Families, Valuing Diversity' Lancashire Aimhigher National Families Conference. For further details see: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/families/Conference06.htm>

For further information about working with families, or copies of other resources, contact:

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☒ <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/families/index.htm>



Reference for this paper:

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<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/families/Conference06.htm>