



PRIMARY AND PARTNERSHIPS

# Discovery Days Impact Report

2023-24

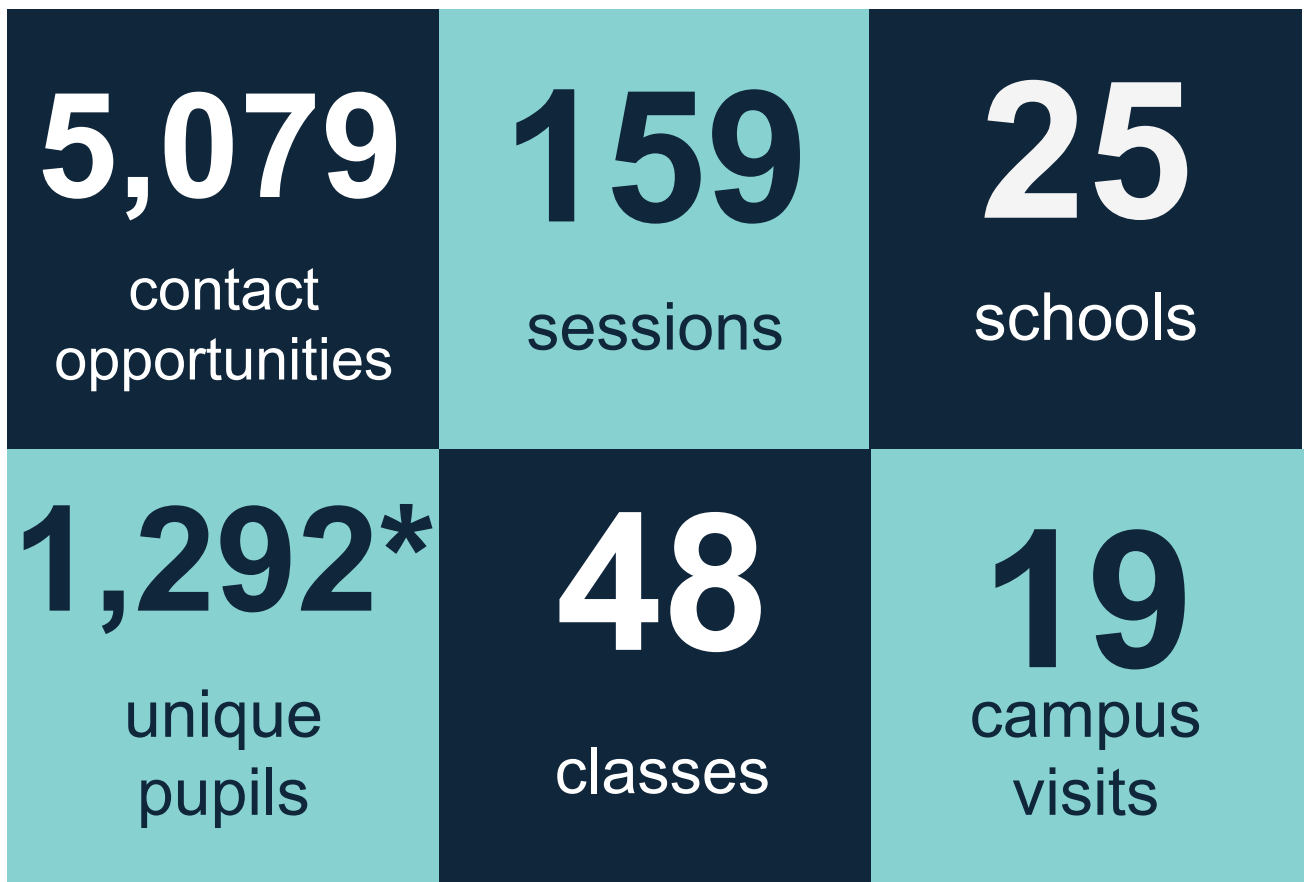


# Discovery Days

## What is the Discovery Days programme?

Discovery Days is a four-part programme designed for Year 3 - Year 6 students, tailored to focus on a specific academic subject. The idea is to offer a themed visit to our campus, in collaboration with our academic colleagues and students. Participants will get to meet current students and take part in an interactive campus tour during their visit.

The programme begins with an in-school session to introduce the concept of university and the Discovery Day theme. Following the campus visit, we return to the classroom to engage students in another aspiration-raising activity of their choice. The final visit is intended to help students reflect on their experience and consider their future aspirations.



\*Unique pupils is calculated based on how many pupils attended the campus visit element of Discovery Days.



# Discovery Days

## How is the Discovery Days programme evaluated?

What do you know about university?

During our introduction and reflection sessions, pupils are asked to tell us what they know about university. As Discovery Days are for Year 3 - Year 6, they are asked to write a free text response, which is then analysed and coded.

When coding responses to pupil evaluations, we utilise a guide created to highlight the different **Features and Benefits of university (FaBs)**. These cover the areas of higher education that our programmes predominantly highlight. Pre- and post-programme responses are then compared to determine whether there has been an increase in knowledge, and what categories any knowledge increase falls under.

<b>FaB A</b> Learning	<b>FaB B</b> Ease of Access	<b>FaB C</b> Route to HE	<b>FaB D</b> Freedom of Choice
<b>FaB E</b> Working towards advancement	<b>FaB F</b> University Life	<b>FaB G</b> Future Prospects	<b>FaB H</b> Enjoyment



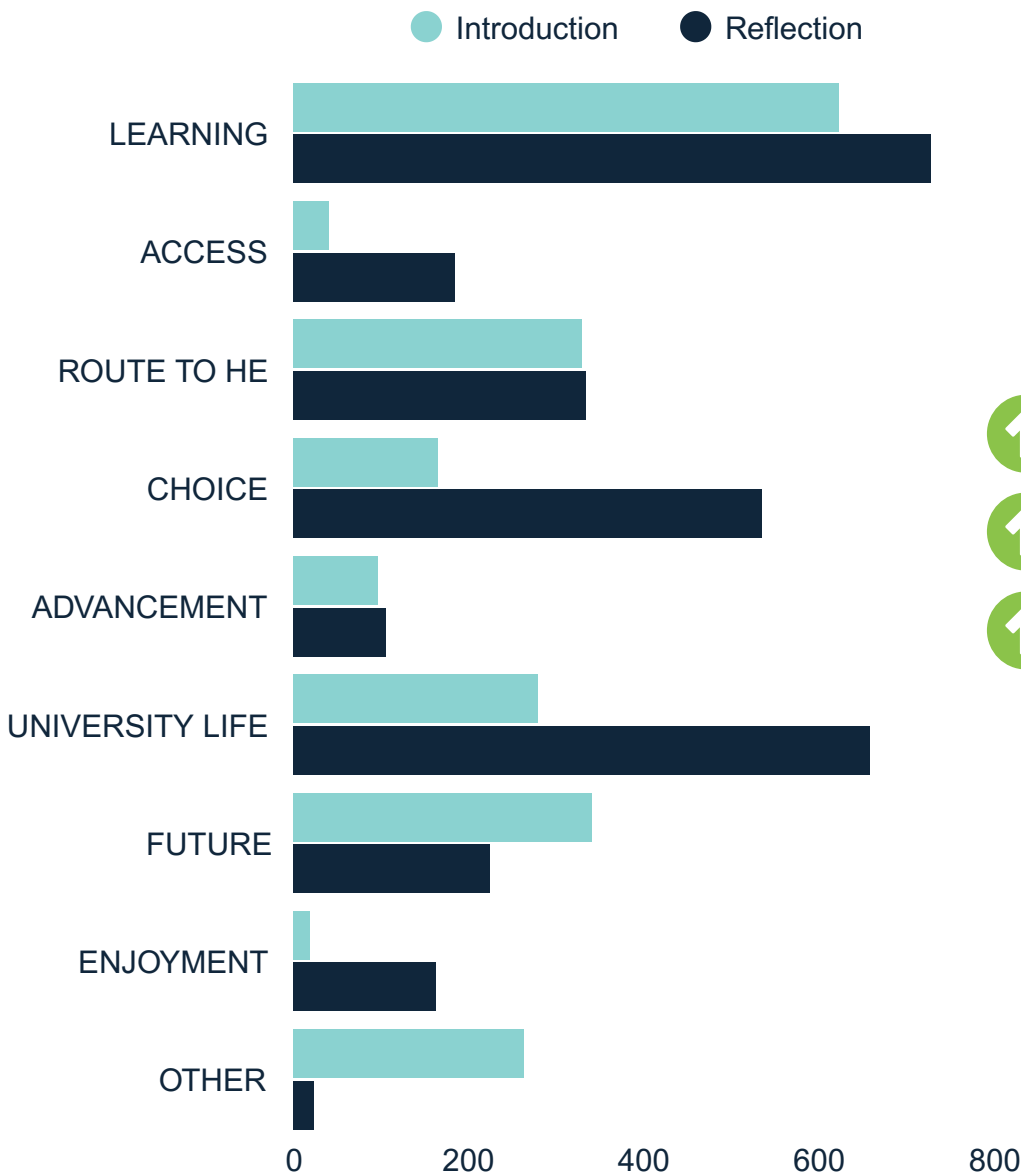
# Discovery Days

## Top three FaBs mentioned in reflection sessions



**100%**  
of classes identified more FaBs in the reflection than the introduction sessions

## Frequency of FaBs in Introduction vs Reflection sessions



**81%**  
of classes identified all 8 unique FaBs

↑ **Greatest increase**  
↑ ENJOYMENT  
↑

**1,175**  
pupil responses used\*

\*Calculated by averaging the total number of pupils in introduction and reflection sessions



# Discovery Days

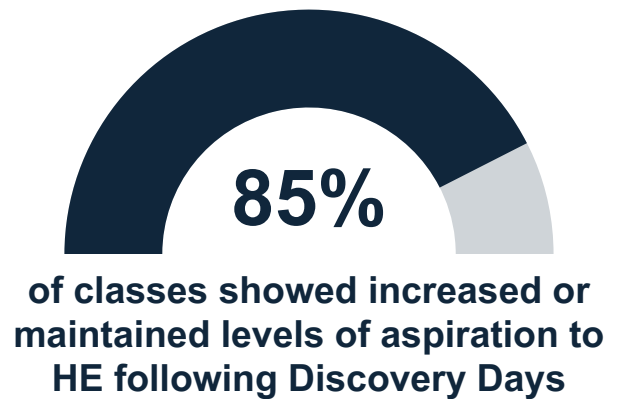
## Aspiration to Higher Education

In both the introduction and reflection sessions, pupils are asked to raise their hands if they think they might want to go to university in the future.

**% of pupils who expressed a desire to go to university**



**% of classes who showed a high or very high level of aspiration to HE**



## Qualitative Analysis

For each class set, one example response is selected that represents the content that pupils have written about in their evaluations. By amalgamating the responses, here you can see an example statement from the introduction session and reflection session.

### Introduction

"University is a place where people 18 or older go to learn more about subjects they choose, to help them get a job they want in the future."

### Reflection

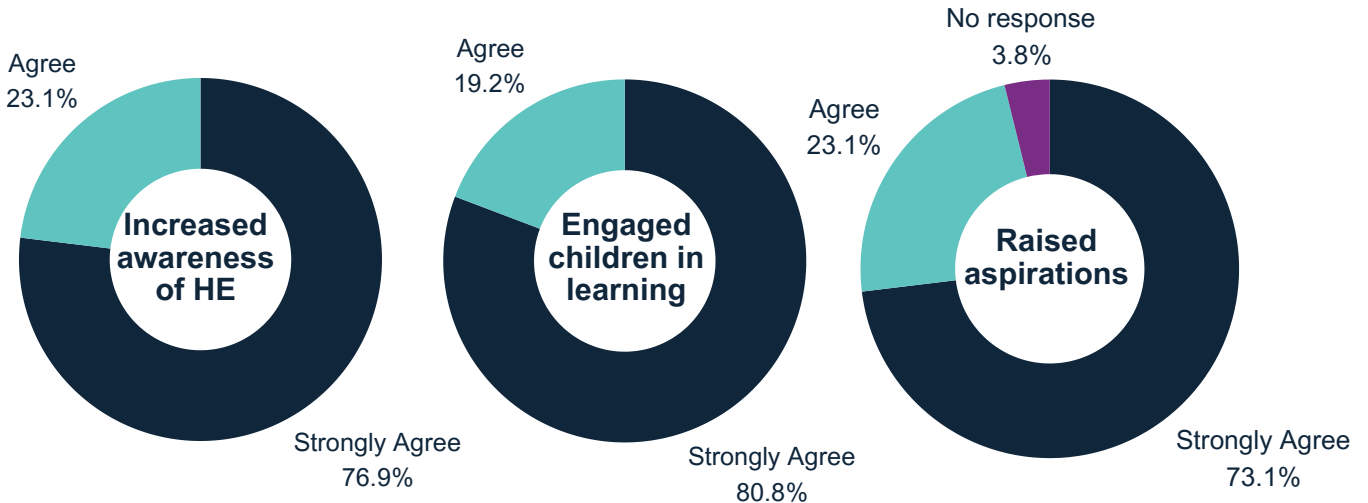
"University is a place where you can start from 18+, choose from over 50,000 courses, join various clubs and societies, and even live on campus or at home; it's a big opportunity to learn, make friends, and enjoy activities while preparing for your future career."



# Discovery Days

## Teacher Feedback

Teachers are requested to express their level of agreement with three statements that correspond to the goals of the Discovery Days programme.



## “Please can you describe the impact this programme had on your pupils?”

Thematic analysis highlights that teachers feel the programme:

- raised children’s aspirations
- showcased university life and various career paths
- dispelled misconceptions about higher education
- encouraged them to link current interests with future studies

“The programme has introduced universities to the lives of children who may have not been aware prior to this programme.”



Year 5 Teacher, Vikings Discovery Day

**73%**

of teachers said 81-100% of the class were engaged in the programme