Higher Horizons



Outreach

Insight

Higher Horizons Evaluation Report 2025/2026

Higher Horizons

Headline Figures

Over 500 activities

Over 15,500 learners

76%
target learners
(from TUNDRA quintiles 1 and 2)

Higher Horizons

Evaluation Headlines

Over 180 PRE and POST activities

Over 11,000 matched learners PRE and POST (22,000 rows of data)

Over half providing free text comments

Over 170 meeting their Theory of Change design outcomes

Over 480 cases of teacher feedback

88% average approval rating ('good'/'excellent')

Higher Horizons

Information, Advice, and Guidance: The Uni Facts mini programme

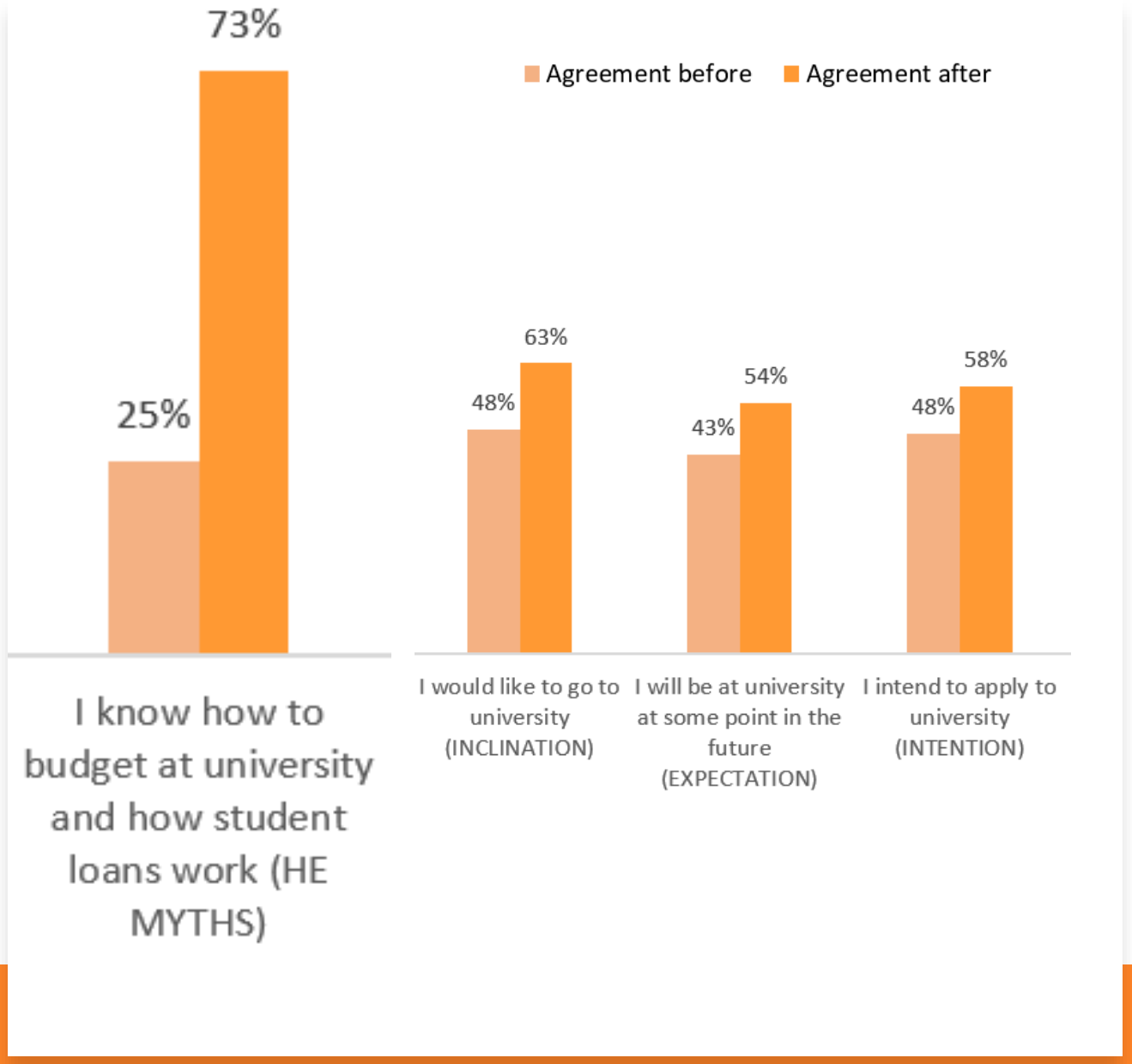
Higher Horizons

Mini Programme: Uni Facts (Y7/8)

A 3 hour programme designed to clarify the benefits and dispel the myths of higher education.

Our most popular in-school provision. 1900+ learners across over 20 schools.

The desire to go, the expectation of going, and the intention to apply all increased by 10 percentage points or more.



Higher Horizons

“It was useful because I did not know what these things meant, but now I do”

“It helped me realise what options I have for the future and gave me pros and cons on if to go or not”

Y7/Y8 learners’ comments on the *Uni Facts Mini Programme*

Higher Horizons

“It made the concept of university a lot clearer and less complicated”

“It helped me understand what university is, how to manage money, understand what loans are, and how courses work”

Y7/Y8 learners’ comments on the *Uni Facts Mini Programme*

Higher Horizons

HE Experience:
Student Life campus visits

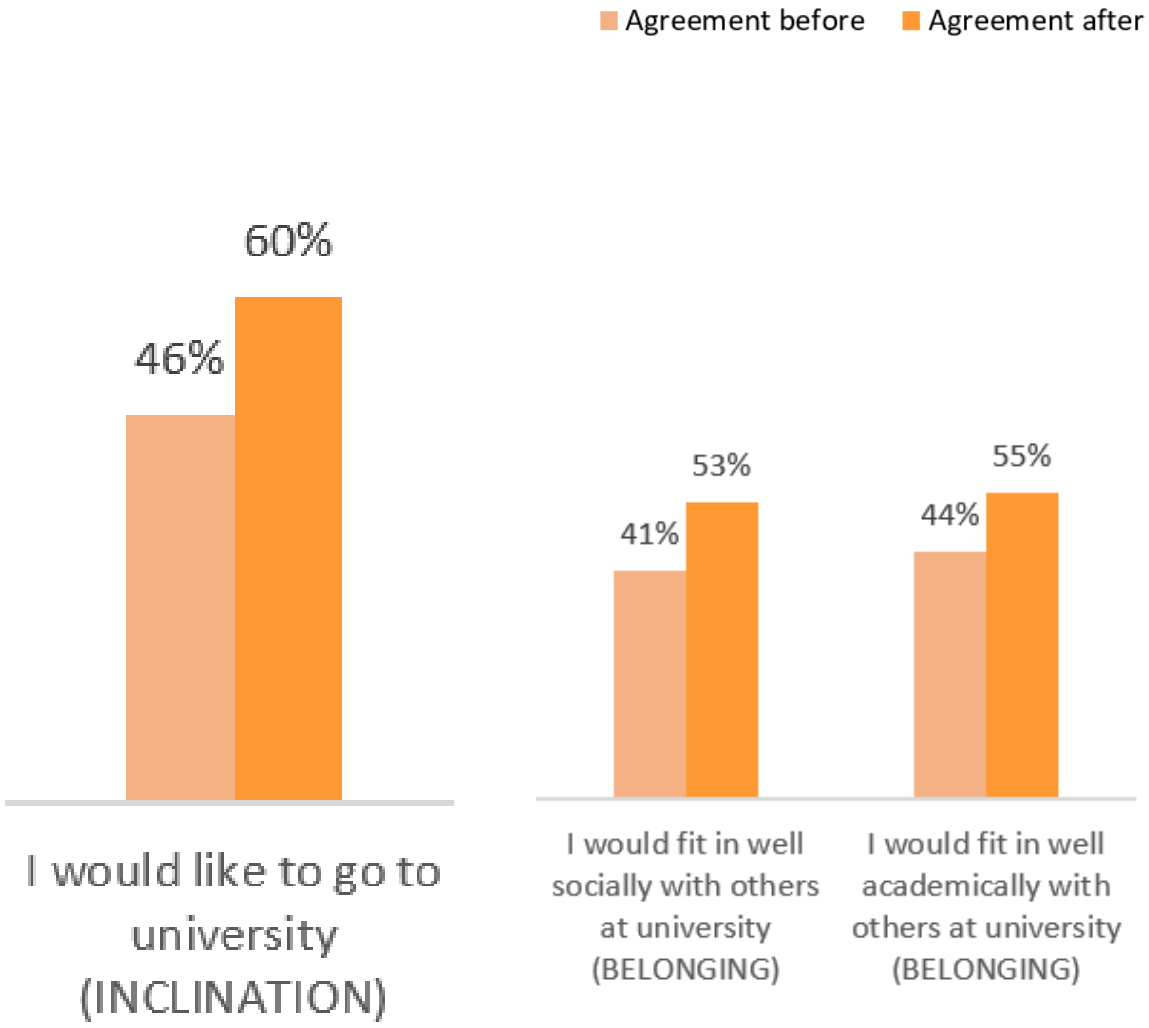
Higher Horizons

Campus Visit: Student Life

A campus visit schedule that includes academic tasters but has an emphasis on the student experience and the non-academic.

Our most popular provision with over 3700 learners from 32 schools.

Positive shifts in all areas, including the desire to go to university and an increased sense of belonging.



Higher Horizons

“It was useful because I never knew these things before and probably never would have known them”

“It’s made me realize I want to do that when I’m older”

Learners’ comments on the *Student Life Campus Visit*

Higher Horizons

"…helped me to understand the difference between a school and a university"

"It helped me further understand what life would be like if I were to go to university and how I could use a degree"

Learners' comments on the *Student Life Campus Visit*

Higher Horizons

Attainment Raising:
Exam Prep mini programme

Mini Programme: Exam Prep (Y10/Y11)

A 3 hour programme taking learners through a range of study and revision techniques and habits transferable across their GCSE subjects; complementing and reinforcing the efforts of teachers in school.

Over 1100 learners across 10 schools.

10 pp shifts in areas such as skills and self-efficacy.



Higher Horizons

“It helps with revision especially when you do not know where to start”

“Taught me ways to revise that I have never thought of”

Y10/Y11 learners’ comments on the Exam Prep Mini Programme

Higher Horizons

“It was helpful! Thank you!”

“It was fun and the skills may actually help me in future exams”

Y10/Y11 learners’ comments on the Exam Prep Mini Programme

Higher Horizons

Teachers

Feedback and observations

Higher Horizons



"well thought-out"

"very balanced"

"well pitched"

"well structured"

"great presenting throughout"

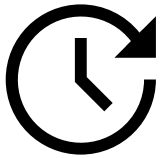
"everything was explained fully"



Teachers' comments on the delivery of HH activities

Higher Horizons

480+ teacher observations after attending an HH activity



86%

Learners more proactive about their future



91%

Learners more confident in their HE knowledge



81%

Learners more interested in study beyond current level



82%

Learners more interested in career options



84%

Teachers more optimistic about their learners' future



95%

Teachers believe the provision was needed

Teachers' responses delivery of HH activities

Higher Horizons

“Pupils who previously did not want to go to university, now do”

St Peter’s Academy, *Y9 Univision Conference*, June 2026

Higher Horizons

“I’ve seen students grow in confidence from start to finish”

Discovery Academy, *Rollercoaster Challenge*, May 2026

Higher Horizons

“I have never seen them so focused. They will talk…about this for a long time”

Ormiston Meridian Academy, *Y9 Campus Visit*, September 2025

Higher Horizons

“100% will have lasting impact on my learners”

The Oaks Academy, *Crewe Vocational Programme*, December 2025

Higher Horizons

Analysis: Qualitative report into learners' questions about university

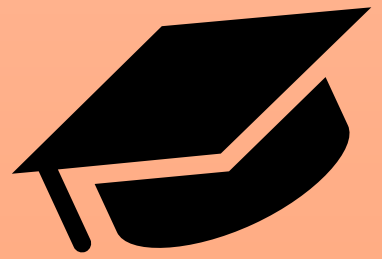
Higher Horizons

“Do you have any questions about university?”

In 2026 we conducted a qualitative analysis of what learners said about higher education on their PRE evaluation forms. These were the ‘top 10’ themes. For more detail, read the report on our website.

The top 10 concerns raised *before* they engage with us…

1. Courses & Learning
   What can I study?
2. Cost & Finance
   How much? What about debt?
3. Accommodation & Living
   Do I have to live on campus? Do I share a room?
4. Timings & Duration
   How long does it take? What is a typical day/week?
5. Careers & Outcomes
   Is it worth it? Do I need it?
6. Application & Entry
   Tell me about the process
7. Difficulty & Challenge
   Is it hard? Am I clever enough?
8. School & University
   Is it like school? Uniforms? Penalties?
9. Doubt & Suspicion
   Don’t want to go? Why are you doing this?
10. Setting & Location
    Too big, too far away…



Higher Horizons

Evidence: contributing to the sector's evidence base

Higher Horizons

The Seventh Evidence Call

In 2025/26 Higher Horizons took part in another successful national evidence call, securing a 'strong' quality rating on all three reports submitted.

The call was for evidence of 'what works' in Attainment Raising interventions.

Submitted:

Evidence included in the review	Type of intervention evaluated	Overall quality rating
Exam Prep (single day)	Study Skills Workshop	Strong empirical
Specialist Workshop	Study Skills Workshop	Strong empirical
Revision Campus Visit	Study Skills Workshop	Strong empirical

Commended for:

- Targeted approach
- Triangulation
- Statistical analysis

Higher Horizons

Evaluation 2025/26

- High volume delivery of activities across the region
- Activities that meet their design objectives
- Programmes that are popular with learners
- Events that schools say they need
- Analysis that dives deep into what learners need
- Evaluation that is recognised for its quality

Thank you and well done to all learners, practitioners, teachers, and staff who helped us deliver another successful year of outreach delivery and evaluation in Staffordshire, Cheshire, and Shropshire

Higher Horizons



Reach out ***for insight***

James Elliott
j.elliott@keele.ac.uk