

Theory of Change: *Your Future Story*

Problem

High prior attaining children from under resourced backgrounds in the South West are significantly less likely to progress to higher education than children of similar backgrounds across England

Contributing factors:

- Low numbers of high attaining children in many schools & colleges
- High attaining children struggle to engage with children with similar interests and levels of ability
- Children, schools & colleges particularly impacted by the effects of educational isolation and dispersed deprivation
- Inconsistent advice and guidance for high attaining children and their parents
- High attaining children not among the priorities of schools & colleges with limited and increasingly stretched resources

Inputs/Activities

- **Cohort model** supporting 100 students each year to develop strong, mutually supportive relationships
- A **teacher champion** in every participating school, trained in needs of most able pupils, offers mentoring, advice and guidance to participants, and directs intervention and support
- **Direct attainment support** interventions, where needed
- Regular **university & employer visits and residentials**
- **Scholarship masterclasses** providing supra-curricular extension and enrichment developing hinterland knowledge required for highest grades and HE progression
- Sustained **engagement with parents & carers** of participants to develop support for HE progression

Intermediate outcomes

- Participants continue to **attain highly** throughout Key Stages 3,4 & 5
- Maintained **expectation of higher education progression** – for young people, parents, and Teacher Champions
- Increased **knowledge of the higher education system** – for young people, parents, and teacher champions
- Participants have **high motivation** for school and learning
- Participants have **increased confidence** to apply and attend university
- Sense of **belonging and community** amongst the programme cohort

Long-term outcomes

- **High attainment at GCSE and A Level** for programme participants
- Participants attend post-16 destinations and study **subjects appropriate for their ability and aspirations**
- Programme participants **apply successfully to high tariff higher education courses**
- By year 10 of the programme, the majority of the **initial cohort complete an undergraduate degree**
- **Improved regional Progress 8** score for disadvantaged high prior attainers, bridging the gap between the SW and national average
- **Shift in culture and practice** in schools & colleges to provide challenge to high prior attainers
- **Sustained partnerships** formed with universities, schools, colleges & MATs **to support high attainment for under resourced children** in the South West

Overall aim

High attaining, under resourced children in the South West have the opportunity, knowledge, and confidence to access high tariff higher education courses.