

For further information contact:

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THE PROGRAMME

The Junior Academy is designed to introduce pupils to Higher Education and life at university. The programme aims to develop decision making skills so that young people are equipped with the appropriate information to make informed educational and career choices.

Approximately 60 pupils will be nominated in Year 9 to take part in a progressive programme that will support development from Year 9 through to Year 12. The Junior Academy aims to support young people by raising awareness of Higher Education, developing academic skills and supporting attainment.

The first year of the programme involves a Welcome Event at Queen's which includes a subject taster session. In Year 10 pupils will be invited to take part in various workshops including a Year 10 GCSE Options event. Students will also be able to complete a project on university life, guided by a student mentor.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Pupils should be the first in their family to attend Higher Education (i.e. neither parent has attended university) and also meet two of the criteria below:

- Be in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM).
- Have an annual household income of less than £19,203.
- Currently living in care or are care experienced.
- Have a registered disability or additional learning need.
- Is the main carer for a family member or dependent.

Pupils must also be:

- In Year 9.
- Attending a non selecting school eligible to participate in the Junior Academy.
- Have an interest in finding out more about Higher Education

NOMINATION PROCESS

- 1. Teachers nominate Year 9 pupils.
- 2. Young people complete nomination forms and gain parental consent for participation in the programme.
- 3. Pupils invited to Welcome Day at Queen's University, Belfast.





WHAT CAN JUNIOR ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS EXPECT

Year 9

- 24 April 2015 School nomination deadline.
- 12 May 2015 Welcome Day including subject taster sessions.

Having participated in the Year 9 programme, pupils will be invited to take part in a range of activities throughout Year 10.

Year 10

- Literacy, Numeracy and Social Media Workshops.
- Guidance on Year 10 GCSE options.
- Mentor Support.
 University Research Project.

Year 11 & 12

On-going support and opportunity to apply for the Queen's Senior Academy in Year 13.