

# THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

## SRA Widening Participation Update

December 2010



### Schools Outreach

As Widening Participation (WP) continues to be a strategic priority so our work in **Schools**

**Outreach** continues: striving to ensure that all subject areas (Schools) across the University are able to participate actively in activities aimed at widening the participation of under-represented groups.

In 2010, University staff and postgraduates have continued to support and enable the ever increasing number of subject specific workshops delivered, both on and off campus, to local school pupils. Over 100 workshops have been delivered this year in over 30 subject areas with over 480 pupils having attended in total.

We are always looking to forge new collaborations with our University colleagues and in turn offer our support for any **Schools Outreach** activities which have a WP focus. For more details please contact Melanie Smith.



An SFC funded 3 year WP project to expand the Pathways to the Professions project model has recently begun. Reach Scotland will be managed collaboratively with four partner Universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, St Andrews and Glasgow). It will provide information, advice and guidance on applying to high demand professional courses.

**Reach Edinburgh** will work closely with the University of Edinburgh Pathways to the Professions, LEAPS and SHEP. Working with S4-6 school students who attend target schools in the Scottish Borders and Forth Valley with the potential to succeed on the high demand professional courses: Architecture, Law, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. Eligible pupils will be young people who are first in family to go to University, in receipt of EMA or have spent time in care.

Al Blackshaw, a recent addition to the WP team, is leading the **Reach Edinburgh** roll out and can be contacted for further information.



**LEAPs** expansion into the Scottish Borders has also continued to progress well. From autumn 2010 they are also working with Alloa Academy, Bannockburn High School, Grangemouth High School, and Lornshill Academy.

Numbers of UoE LEAPS entrants have increased again this year from 257 in 2009 to 275 in 2010 (see table opposite)

Year	LEAPS Entrants
2006	197
2007	218
2008	240
2009	257
2010	275

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## Pathways to the Professions

Opening the door to careers in Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture



## Pathways 10th Birthday

The University of Edinburgh Pathways to the Professions project will have been running for 10 years in 2011. Thousands of school

students have already benefited from the project with 700 currently registered and even a Facebook page launched earlier this year!

To celebrate we have made a short **Pathways film** with North Isle Productions. The piece features current Pathways school pupil Nazmul Kadir (Leith Academy), and two University of Edinburgh undergraduate students Alex Sharp and Mark Tait, who both came through Pathways and now contribute to the project as ambassadors. It also includes solicitor John Scott who represents just one of the many practitioners who contribute and support Pathways ensuring that the vital link between professionals and school pupils continues.

The **Pathways film** can be viewed via the website: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/pathways](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/pathways)

## Expansion of Primary Schools Project

After recently receiving a generous donation, the **Early Years work** that has been so successful over the past five years can now be extended to work with two new primary schools. The schools in question, Craigentenny and Leith, are feeders to Leith High School. The first workshops in these school have been successfully carried out with more to follow in the new year.



A small project grant was awarded to the WP team to fund a research project to investigate educational expectations and aspirations primary school parents hold for their children in low participating

neighbourhoods. The research, which has the full support of partner primary schools, will work with the parents of pupils in P2 and P6.

Any member of staff wishing to assist by providing workshops for our visiting primary schools, during February and March, should feel free to contact Melanie Smith : details below.

The WP team	Title	Responsibilities	Contact
Kathleen Hood	Widening Participation Manager	Funding bids, strategy, new activities	Kathleen.Hood@ed.ac.uk 0131 650 4383
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