

# The SHELL Toolkit

*strengthening partnerships between  
schools and universities in London*



This Toolkit reports on the School-Higher Education Links in London (SHELL) experience and includes

- Ideas for schools and universities
- Pointers to future pan-London collaboration



The 2010 SHELL/Aimhigher programme\* involving 70 schools and 4,000+ young people through 38 HE institutions (HEIs) found

- Teachers felt that the aspirations of the young people involved had been raised
- First-hand experience of HE at Key Stage 3 was seen as crucial
- The projects had helped schools cement future links with HEIs
- It was vital for young people to form links with not just one HEI exclusively

\* 'SHELL / Aimhigher Higher Education Experience Project Final Evaluation Report' by Dr Graeme Atherton et al



Topics requested from 50 school submissions in 2011 included

- Information, Advice & Guidance & HE finance workshops
- The university supporting the school's 'whole-year' approach to HE
- Mentoring by recent graduate alumni of the school, involving parents
- Subject links sought: science most popular
- University staff supporting new A level/sixth-form staff at school

## Secondary schools across London

There are 400+ maintained secondary schools and academies in London and their average annual intake is c. 80,000 students a year. About 40,000 students progress to higher education (HE) each year from London schools and colleges.

### Encouraging individual schools to strengthen their university links

Progression varies significantly from school to school and across the different parts of London. During the SHELL project, two separate groups of London secondary schools were helped to strengthen their own direct



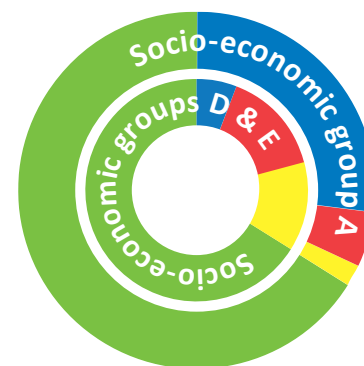
*In my work as Advocate for Access to Education I have spoken to students, parents and teachers in schools, colleges and universities around the country. One thing which has been really clear has been the hugely positive impact strong links between higher education institutions and secondary education can have both on a national level but particularly on a regional level. The SHELL Toolkit uses some of the excellent practices developed in London to develop strong links between schools, colleges and universities locally.*

**Rt Hon Simon Hughes MP**  
Advocate for Access to Education

involvement with universities. Key findings from the two projects are displayed on the left.

### Maintaining momentum on access to education

Since the beginning of 2011 Rt Hon Simon Hughes MP has been visiting schools and listening to students and staff in London and across England in his role as **Advocate for Access to Education**. New fees for study will be charged from September 2012 onwards and Simon has been looking at practical ways of helping students to participate in education beyond age 16 and progress to HE.



### What is the key influence on students as they decide to go to university?

- Teachers
- Friends / Siblings
- Parents / Grandparents / Guardians
- Other

### Where do students go for information about going to university?

- Universities' own websites
- UCAS website
- Social networking sites

Source: NUS Student Experience Report (2008)

## Universities & HE colleges across London

Universities and higher education (HE) colleges, known together as HE institutions (HEIs), advance knowledge and understanding through teaching and research.

They offer a variety of experiences for potential students that is unrivalled in the rest of the UK or hardly in any other world city.

There are 42 publicly-funded degree-awarding HEIs in London educating c. 400,000 students. They range in size from more than 25,000 students to fewer than 2,500 and attract students, staff and researchers from all over the world.

### Demand for links to subject departments/faculties in universities

HEIs support widening participation in a variety of ways. Preliminary surveys of teachers by the SHELL project showed a strong demand for links to be made between subject teachers and their students in schools and the related subject departments or faculties in HEIs.

While SHELL has strengthened links between schools and HEIs, its ambition to see stronger subject links remains.



### Universities, schools and employers

Universities concentrate increasingly on the employability of their graduates.

**London Workforce Development (LWD)** has contacts with circa 400 companies in the capital and, as a division of **London Higher**, is well placed to build on SHELL to strengthen relationships between schools and employers.



Find out more at  
W [www.londonworkforcedevelopment.co.uk](http://www.londonworkforcedevelopment.co.uk)  
E [info@londonworkforcedevelopment.co.uk](mailto:info@londonworkforcedevelopment.co.uk)



**Strong school partnerships with universities are likely to include a variety of ingredients from those listed here**

**Does your school have a measurable and sustainable relationship with one or more HEIs?**      **Yes**      **No**      **Not Yet**

1 Do you have an identified member of staff who leads on relationships with the HE sector?  
(And if so, is s/he a member of the SMT?)                 

**In relation to your *students*, do they participate in:**

2 Visits to one or more HEIs? (Name the HEIs; identify the year groups)                 

3 Visits by HEI staff to you school, or a collaborative group of schools?                 

4 Masterclasses, revision classes, sessions of the Gifted & Talented type?                 

5 Summer schools (at any time of year)?                 

6 Mentoring, including e-mentoring?                 

7 Support from student ambassadors?                 

**In relation to your *students' parents*, do they participate in:**

8 Events at school involving HE staff or students, or HEI visits?                 

**In relation to your *former students* currently or recently at a UK university (this is especially for 11-16 schools):**

9 Do they visit you to describe their experience of HE study and living?                 

**In relation to your *school staff*:**

10 Do staff have a working relationship with one or more HE departments?                 

11 Do staff participate with an HEI for CPD or INSET?                 

12 Are staff involved with an HEI through its teacher education programme?                 

13 Does your school make regular use of any HE services or facilities (eg labs, library/information science, sports, ceremonies and events etc.)?                 

**In respect of *governance*, both ways:**

14 Is there anyone from an HEI on your governing body?                 

15 Is anyone in your school active in HE governance?                 

16 Are you involved with one or more HEIs as part of a trust or academy arrangement?                 

**In sum, taking all of the above into account:**

17 Do you consider that you can claim to have a 'measurable and sustainable relationship with one or more HEIs that is embedded in your school's structures'?                 



### Strong university partnerships with schools require joint planning and sustained first-hand contact

#### DOs ✓

##### Support a school

- Consider **sponsoring** an academy or participating in a **school's governing body**

##### Raise awareness

- Support **HE days** or **HE fairs** where young people can meet students, staff and researchers from a number of universities
- Offer **residential**s where young people experience life on a university campus

##### Improve attainment

- Arrange Year 12 **induction days** delivered by university tutors
- Run **summer schools** and **masterclasses** at universities during school holidays
- Help schools to assist students looking at the **more selective universities**

##### Opportunities after graduation

- Provide contact **with graduates**
- Assist university and workplace visits that focus on **specific subjects** and **career choices**

#### DON'Ts ✗

- Run one-off or 'parachute' events **arranged without consultation** with schools
- Organise campus visits **lacking in 'context'**
- Talk at students for **too long**
- Give **general talks** to ill-prepared groups



Accumulated national good practice on school-HE links will be reported at [www.aimhigher.ac.uk/practitioner/home](http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk/practitioner/home)  
[www.actiononaccess.org](http://www.actiononaccess.org)

## AccessHE

### The future: a collaborative pan-London approach to outreach through AccessHE supported by OFFA

The SHELL and Aimhigher programmes close in summer 2011. The best elements of these two programmes will endure through a new pan-London group **AccessHE**. This is being developed in close collaboration with **London Higher**.

**AccessHE** will bring universities together to help young people at schools and colleges in the capital to appreciate the richness of the HE experience across London.

The Office for Fair Access (OFFA) requires HEIs charging more than £6,000 annually for courses from September 2012 onwards to demonstrate how they will expand and deliver outreach work with schools and colleges. **AccessHE** has been flagged as an example of good practice on the OFFA website.



Find out more at [www.AccessHE.ac.uk](http://www.AccessHE.ac.uk) (*pending*)



*One of the things the Office for Fair Access looks for when approving access agreements is effective outreach work to help raise school pupils' aspirations and achievement. I am therefore delighted to see that London institutions are collaborating through AccessHE and London Higher to strengthen links between themselves and local schools.*

**Sir Martin Harris, Director of Fair Access**



## Where to study in London?

London's 42 publicly-funded higher education institutions (HEIs) are not spread evenly across the capital. Because so many are clustered in central London, on our map those near the centre have been spread outwards and those further out have been pushed inwards.



Names of HEIs on our map follow the UCAS listing as closely as possible  
\*Colleges of the University of London

### WEST END & WEST LONDON

32. Brunel University
33. Heythrop College, University of London\*
34. Imperial College London
35. The Institute of Cancer Research\*
36. London Business School\*
37. Royal Academy of Music\*
38. Royal College of Art
39. Royal College of Music
40. Royal Holloway, University of London\*
41. University of West London
42. University of Westminster

## How can schools contact universities?

The **SHELL HE-finder** offers a first-stop contact for universities across London.

Search the SHELL HE-finder at [www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELLHE-finder.html](http://www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELLHE-finder.html)

Or download a printed version at [www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELLDirectory.html](http://www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELLDirectory.html)



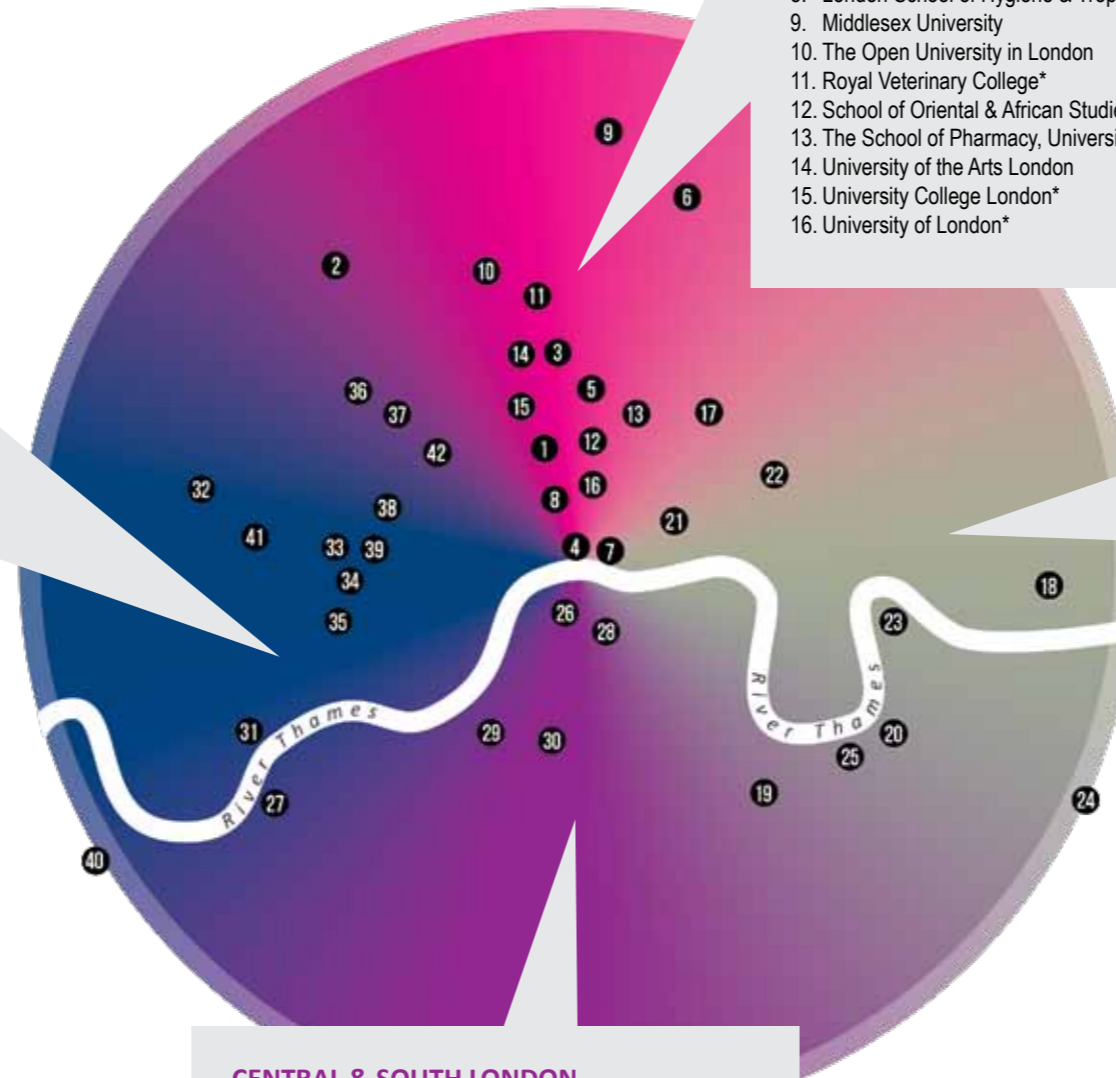
### CENTRAL & NORTH LONDON

1. Birkbeck, University of London\*
2. Central School of Speech & Drama\*
3. Conservatoire for Dance & Drama
4. Courtauld Institute of Art\*
5. Institute of Education\*
6. London Metropolitan University
7. London School of Economics & Political Science\*
8. London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine\*
9. Middlesex University
10. The Open University in London
11. Royal Veterinary College\*
12. School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London\*
13. The School of Pharmacy, University of London\*
14. University of the Arts London
15. University College London\*
16. University of London\*

## What courses are available?

**30,000+** qualifications are on offer at London universities and higher education colleges.

[www.study london.ac.uk](http://www.study london.ac.uk)



### CITY, EAST LONDON & THAMES GATEWAY

17. City University London
18. University of East London
19. Goldsmiths, University of London\*
20. University of Greenwich
21. Guildhall School of Music & Drama
22. Queen Mary, University of London\*
23. Ravensbourne
24. Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance
25. Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance

### CENTRAL & SOUTH LONDON

26. King's College London\*
27. Kingston University London
28. London South Bank University
29. Roehampton University
30. St George's, University of London\*
31. St Mary's University College, Twickenham

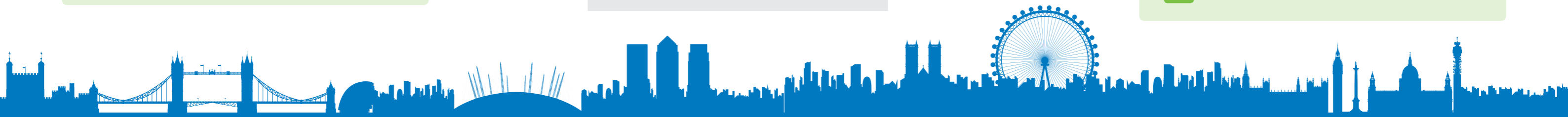
## What are the costs of study?

The latest information on **student finance** arrangements can be found at

[www.direct.gov.uk/yourfuture](http://www.direct.gov.uk/yourfuture)

For **fees** and the **new national scholarships** at individual universities, visit an institution's own website or use the UCAS course search at

[www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)



# SHELL: its mission and methods

SHELL is the abbreviation for 'School-HE Links in London'. The SHELL project grew out of the final phase of the London Challenge, 2008-11, supported by the Department for Education.

The London Challenge programme has concentrated on raising standards in London schools. Since its introduction, secondary schools in London

have performed better and improved at a faster rate than schools in the rest of England in terms of their education results.\* In 2008 education ministers made two pledges that gave attention to students' experiences beyond school.

\*[www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/London-Challenge](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/London-Challenge)

## Universities and school governance

School staff, governors and parents need to appreciate what universities do and how they operate.

Universities should have close contact with schools and one way of doing this is through governing bodies. University staff and current or recent graduates can join a school governing body.



Download the leaflet on how to 'Become a School Governor in London' from [www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELLGovernance.html](http://www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELLGovernance.html)



Find out more at the **School Governor's One-Stop Shop (SGOSS)** [www.sgoos.org.uk](http://www.sgoos.org.uk)



Download this SHELL Toolkit at [www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELLToolkit.html](http://www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELLToolkit.html)

E [SHELL@londonhigher.ac.uk](mailto:SHELL@londonhigher.ac.uk)  
W [www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELL](http://www.londonhigher.ac.uk/SHELL)

## The SHELL pledges

- 1 Every maintained secondary school in London will have a partnership with one or more HE institutions (not necessarily in London), and
- 2 A higher proportion of young Londoners will go on to HE including the more competitive universities

London Higher, representing the interests of 40-plus of the HEIs across London, won the contract to develop an action plan for SHELL to address the two SHELL pledges. The Chair of London Higher, **Professor Malcolm Gillies** (Vice-Chancellor of London Metropolitan University) was appointed by ministers as the **Champion for HE Partnerships in London**. His suggestions for implementing the SHELL programme highlighted two important principles:



Professor Malcolm Gillies

- The relationship between schools and HEIs should be properly two-way
- SHELL could not enact the pledges all on its own and so sought to work with partners.

A **SHELL Delivery Board** was formed in 2009 co-chaired by Professor Gillies and **Professor David Woods CBE**, the then **Chief Adviser for London Schools**. The Board also included representation from London's Aimhigher partnerships and students' unions, through ULU (University of London Students' Union).



Professor David Woods