

The Gloucestershire Aspiration Programme (GAP)

1. What is GAP?

An OfS funded programme running in targeted schools in Gloucestershire, initially from January 2017 until July 2021. It has the aim of raising aspiration to university level study amongst students from specific wards in the county. These students have the attainment potential to progress but historically they are under-represented at this level of study, i.e there is a progression gap. GAP is one of 29 other consortia in the country who together form the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP).

GAP/GROWS is supported by six higher education institutions: University of Gloucestershire, Hartpury College, South Gloucestershire College, Cirencester College, Royal Agricultural University and Gloucestershire College.

2. How does it differ from GROWS?

GROWS (Gloucestershire Reaching Out With Schools) is a network of all the higher education providers in the county, providing outreach activities to all students (Year 7 – 13) in all Gloucestershire schools. GAP sits within this network but it is a specific project working with students from year 9 – year 13 in 10 schools in Gloucestershire. These are: All Saints Academy, Holmleigh Park High School, Gloucester Academy, The Dean Academy, Forest High School, Five Acres High School, Henley Bank High School, Pittville School, St. Peters Catholic High School, Tewkesbury School.

3. What does this mean for my school?

The school receives funding through the GROWS network to develop **new** aspiration raising activity for the targeted learners in years 9 -13. The project is designed to support and enhance current programmes of activity that take place and will look to provide a mix of targeted activity and whole cohort activity, depending on the individual needs of the school and its students. The school has a designated lead for running the project who liaises closely with the GAP team to develop these bespoke programmes of aspiration raising activity. GAP also has a budget with which it can support the school by providing additional opportunities for aspirational activity to take place from external providers and the six partners aligned to the project.

*Office for students