



**Next Steps
South West**



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Next Steps South West (NSSW) is a collaborative project to support year 9 to 13 students make informed choices about higher education. The scheme is funded by the Office for Students (OfS) and aims to increase participation in higher education by college leavers.

We are working in collaboration with 14 further and higher education providers within Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, both universities and FE colleges, and the scheme builds on the success of two previous projects: Next Steps Cornwall and DCON (Devon Collaborative Outreach Network). The intervention developed by our project is expected to increase participation of students within target wards to meet government targets for recruitment to higher education. Students at your child's college have been identified to receive support for four years and this will involve activities and workshops to encourage them into higher education, including confidence building workshops, skills mapping, revision workshops, masterclasses and summer schools. These activities aim to provide the information, advice and guidance that will enable them to recognise the value of continuing their studies and make an informed decision about the variety of higher education options available to them.

Invites will be given to students for an activity where it has been identified that it will be beneficial to them. These activities are optional and students can withdraw from the project at any time. Some of the activities will be evaluated and this is normally done by the completion of a survey.

If you would like any more information, each college involved in the project has a NSSW In-school Coordinator working in the college who will be able to answer your questions.

Any data collected as part of this project will not be used for any marketing purposes and will be held and used in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

I hope that you will agree that this is an exciting opportunity and that you will give this initiative your full backing.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte True
Manager Next Steps South West