

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Outreach) Award

Name of project and institution

Cook up your Maths, Anglia Ruskin University

Brief Description

'Cook up your Maths' is a GCSE attainment raising programme for Y9-10 students who may be systemically disadvantaged with achieving their potential at GCSE level. Pedagogy and programme content was co-created with teachers, requiring practical application of GCSE Maths to a real-life scenario, whereby students imagine themselves as a university student throwing a first-year dinner party. With university visits, a celebration evening, and a chance to cook with professional chefs, the initiative has empowered over 200 WP students to discover and explore how Maths is more than just a GCSE, whilst developing skills for independent living.

Why has this project been nominated

'Cook up your Maths' has been nominated because it aligns seamlessly with the criteria, OfS attainment raising priorities, and NEON's own objectives - as we strive to develop professionalism in our offer by researching, evaluating, and advocating quality interventions that support the WP schools within ARU's community. Reports show that nearly a third of adult's struggle with everyday Maths, this programme strives to inspire a generation of learners who will not only excel in Maths, but who will be able to apply the concepts to their everyday lives and use this to propel their career prospects. The innovative 'Cook up your Maths' GCSE attainment raising programme sees Y9-10 WP students link abstract GCSE Maths concepts to the development of real-life skills, showing an impressive impact on the building blocks of attainment, such as motivation to study, confidence, and exam readiness, with students telling us 'As maths was sort of 'hidden'... it made maths more fun than normal.' Pedagogy and programme content was co-created with teachers, linking directly to the GCSE curriculum and past test papers, and requires the practical application of GCSE Maths to a real-life scenario, whereby students imagine themselves as a university student throwing a first-year dinner party for their friends. With six sessions, a visit to a university campus, a celebration event and a hands-on cooking experience delivered alongside professional chefs, 'Cook up your Maths' innovatively empowers WP students to discover and explore how Maths is more than just a GCSE, whilst developing skills for independent living.

How long has the project been running

2 years

Number of participants for each year of the project's operation

120

More details

<https://navigatr.app/activity/142/aru-amplify-your-talent-cook-up-your-maths>

