

# Online engagement from higher education: what sixth forms need

## NEON Summit

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# SFCA: our members

- Large, specialist providers of sixth form education
- Average 2000 students vs. 200 in school sixth forms
- Our students have lower levels of prior attainment and higher levels of disadvantage...
- ...but secure better exam results and are more likely to progress to university than other state providers
- Progression to university: 20 of biggest 25 providers are SFCA members (and 64 of biggest 100)



Sixth Form Colleges  
Association

THE VOICE OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

# Our members

Roman Catholic Sixth Form Colleges are indicated by a •

## North-West Region

- 1 Aquinas College •
- 2 Ashton Sixth Form College
- 3 Birkenhead Sixth Form College
- 4 Bolton Sixth Form College
- 5 Cardinal Newman College •
- 6 Carmel College •
- 7 Connell Co-op College
- 8 The Cheadle and Marple Network
- 9 Holy Cross College •
- 10 Hugh Baird College (South Sefton Campus)
- 11 Loreto College •
- 12 Nelson and Colne College
- 13 Oldham Sixth Form College
- 14 Priestley College
- 15 Rochdale Sixth Form College
- 16 Runshaw College
- 17 St John Rigby College •
- 18 St Mary's College, Blackburn •
- 19 Salford City College
- 20 Sir John Deane's College
- 21 Southport College
- 22 The Blackpool Sixth Form College
- 23 Winstanley College
- 24 Xaverian College •

## East Region

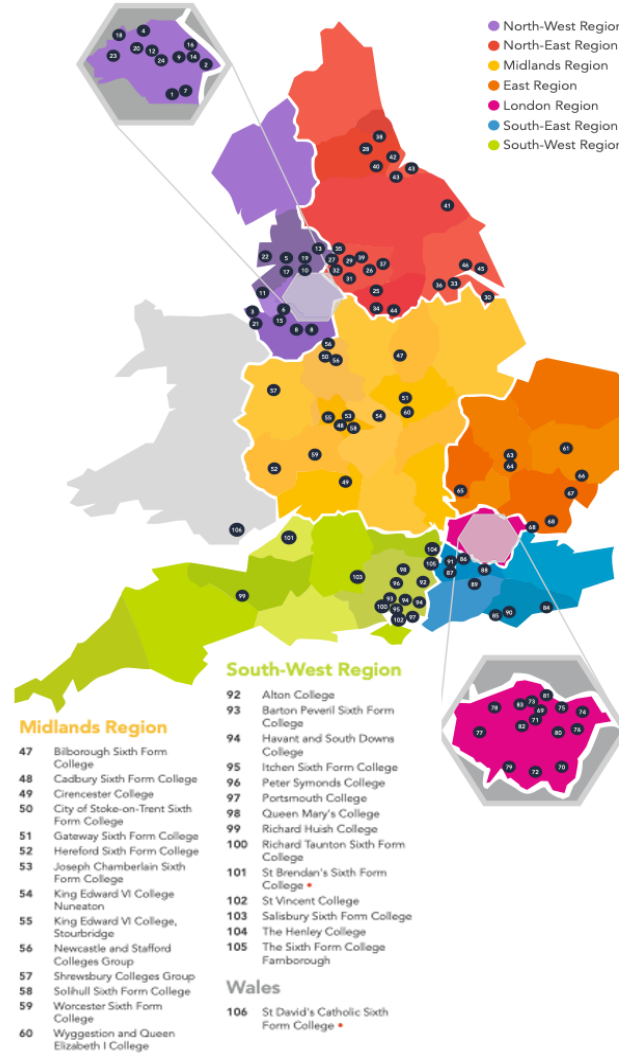
- 61 Abbeygate Sixth Form College
- 62 East Norfolk Sixth Form College
- 63 Hills Road Sixth Form College
- 64 Long Road Sixth Form College
- 65 Luton Sixth Form College
- 66 One Sixth Form College
- 67 The Sixth Form College, Colchester
- 68 USP College

## London Region

- 69 BSix Sixth Form College
- 70 Christ the King Sixth Form College •
- 71 City and Islington College
- 72 Coulsdon Sixth Form College
- 73 Haringey Sixth Form College
- 74 Havering Colleges Sixth Form
- 75 Leyton Sixth Form College
- 76 Newham Sixth Form College
- 77 St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College •
- 78 St Dominic's Sixth Form College •
- 79 St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College •
- 80 Shooters Hill Sixth Form College
- 81 Sir George Monoux College
- 82 William Morris Sixth Form
- 83 Woodhouse College

## South-East Region

- 84 Bexhill Sixth Form College
- 85 Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College
- 86 Esher Sixth Form College
- 87 Godalming College
- 88 Reigate Sixth Form College
- 89 The College of Richard Collyer
- 90 Varndean College
- 91 Woking College



## North-East Region

- 25 Barnsley College
- 26 CAPA College
- 27 Dixons Sixth Form Academy
- 28 Durham Sixth Form Centre
- 29 Elliot Hudson College
- 30 Franklin College
- 31 Greenhead College
- 32 Huddersfield New College
- 33 John Leggott Sixth Form College
- 34 Longley Park Sixth Form College
- 35 New College Bradford
- 36 New College Doncaster
- 37 New College Pontefract
- 38 Newcastle Sixth Form College
- 39 Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College •
- 40 Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College
- 41 Scarborough Sixth Form College
- 42 Bede Sixth Form College
- 43 Prior Pursglove and Stockton Sixth Form College
- 44 Thomas Rotherham College
- 45 Wilberforce Sixth Form College
- 46 Wyke Sixth Form College



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# HE progression: 25 biggest providers

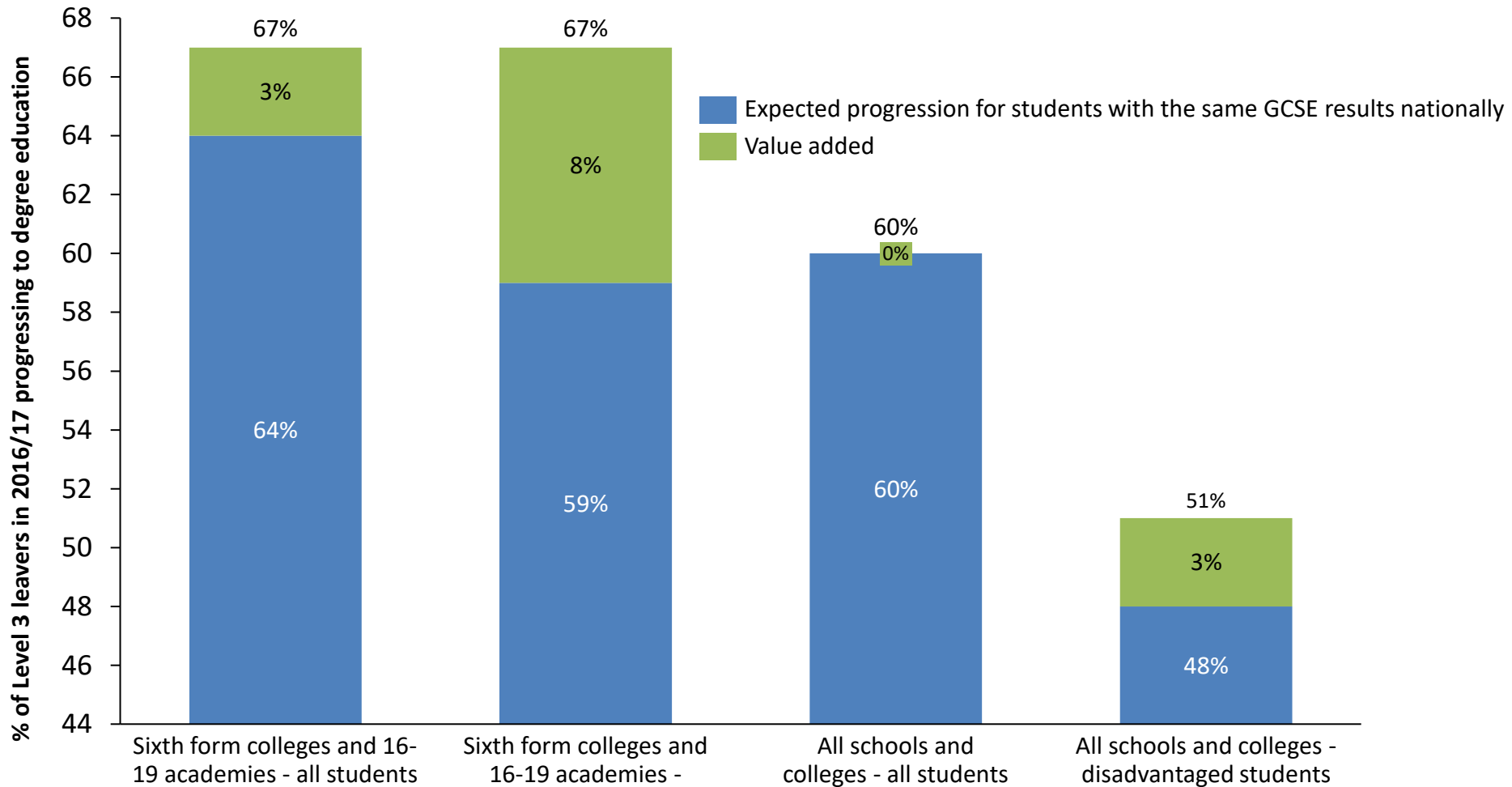
Institution name	Students progressing to HE
Capital City College Group	1350
Peter Symonds College	1048
Runshaw College	979
Loreto College	961
The Sixth Form College Farnborough	923
NCG	917
Cardinal Newman College	869
Truro and Penwith College	842
Birmingham Metropolitan College	828
Greenhead College	798
Barton Peveril Sixth Form College	761
Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group	755
Luton Sixth Form College	677
Holy Cross College	648
King Edward VI College Stourbridge	639
Exeter College	638
The Sixth Form College, Solihull	634
Salford City College	626
The Sixth Form College Colchester	624
Xaverian College	621
Christ The King Sixth Form College	619
Harrow Collegiate	619
Winstanley College	608
Oldham Sixth Form College	595
City of Sunderland College	588



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# Value added and HE progression



# The Covid context

- Pandemic has had a hugely negative impact on students and sixth forms: important to understand both
- Students: low prior attainment/economically disadvantaged hit particularly hard
- Sixth forms: grappling with online learning/re-opening/changing assessment policies etc.
- Taken together, sixth forms have less time to support HE/WP activities when students need more time



# Looking ahead

- There have been some Covid-era changes that sixth forms will want to retain
- There were some changes that sixth forms were keen to see even before Covid
- Much of the focus is on online vs face to face engagement
- But we should not forget wider context. Principal: *“Nobody questions the value of education, but people are increasingly questioning the value of a university education”.*



# Things to hold onto (1)

- Online open days:
  - Helps to address travel poverty
  - Helps to broaden horizons
  - A valuable shortlisting tool...
  - ...rather than a complete replacement for visits
- Online interviews
  - See above
  - Helps to level playing field
  - Reduces impact of “private school polish”





# Things to hold onto (2)

- Online work experience
  - Particularly important given Covid restrictions
  - But also helps those without well connected parents
  - Another way to help level playing field
- Online outreach events:
  - Increases accessibility/reduces travel
  - Live Q and A = more questions/less tumbleweed
  - Interactive sessions work best



# The challenge

- How to retain the gains from the Covid-era while retaining the valuable elements of pre-Covid outreach
  - Online outreach should complement, not replace, face to face interactions
  - May be easier for institutions, but is it easier/more effective for students?
  - Digital poverty remains a real issue for some
- And *how* outreach works cannot be disentangled from the what/who/when/where – much of this has not changed since before Covid



# Some things do not change

- Sixth form is the departure lounge, but many students that should do not make it to the airport – sixth forms and HEIs should work together on early intervention
- The need for whole-institution engagement: academics and senior leaders must be bought in
- Quality matters more than quantity – bespoke, targeted interventions have the greatest impact...
- ...particularly from 'students like me'



# Final thoughts

- The blizzard of individual and group WP initiatives is confusing for sixth forms, let alone students
- Identifying the online elements that have improved the 'traditional' offer is something we should all prioritise
- An outstanding delivery model has limited impact if you are not delivering the right things
- Language matters (polar quintiles!) and some interventions (e.g. summer schools) have high levels of support
- We need to restate the value of university education



Thank You

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