



# The Access Project: Raising Attainment



*We work with high-potential students from disadvantaged backgrounds, providing intensive university readiness support and personalised academic tuition, to help them gain access to selective universities.*

# Improving student attainment is at the heart of our approach



Our evidence shows that **our students achieve better grades than their peers**, particularly at GCSE.



On average, TAP students made **half a grade more progress** than their peers in their tutored subject at GCSE.



**The more tutorials they attend, the bigger the impact.** Students who attended more than 20 tutorials in Year 11 made 0.8 of a grade more progress than their peers

■ Students not with  
The Access Project

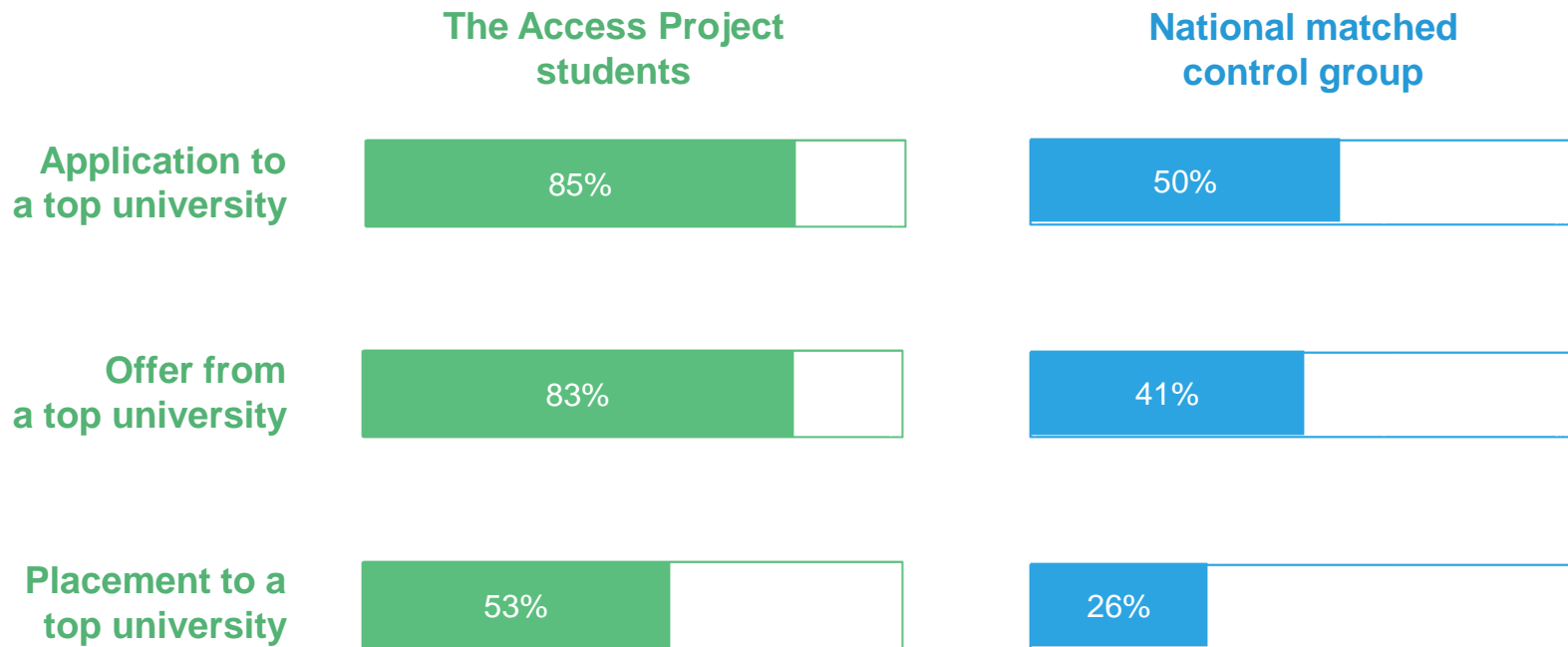
■ Students with  
The Access Project

# Our programme achieves impact on access to top UK universities



UCAS

Students supported by The Access Project are **twice as likely** to go to a top university than similar student nationally last year



# And our impact has been repeatedly externally verified



The Access Project is the only university access organisation in the UK to be validated at Level 3 by Nesta, meaning:



*“an organisation’s **intervention** is causing the impact, by showing less impact amongst those who don’t receive the product or service.”*

And the Office for Students identified The Access Project as one of three organisations working through partnerships to widen participation through an impact focused approach to raise academic attainment in schools.



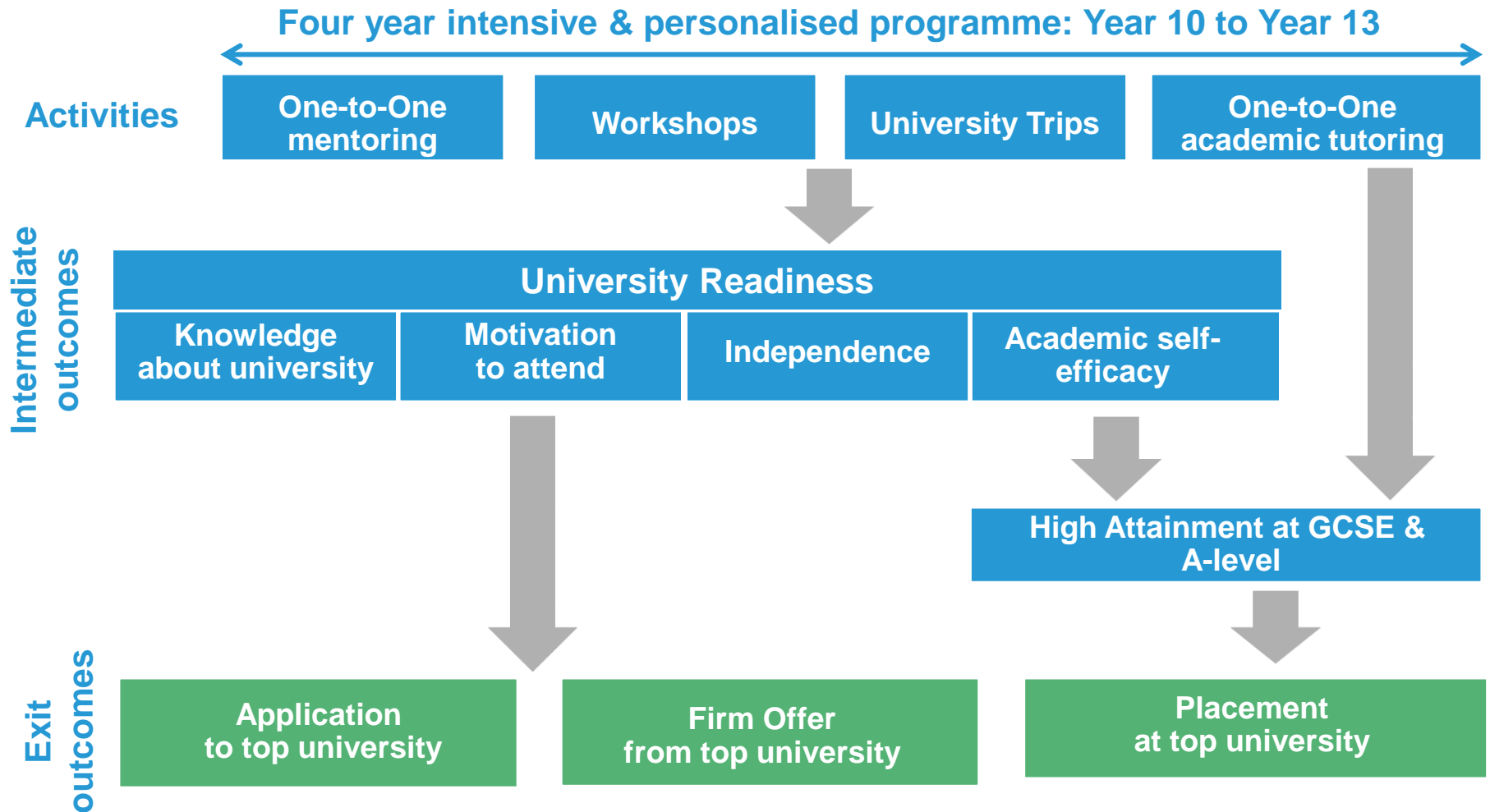
*“Their programme of tutoring and impartial advice is a great example of the sustained, targeted, collaborative and robustly evaluated work we need into the future. Most importantly, it is **demonstrably helping young people to unlock their potential** by achieving the grades they need to get into the university of their choice.”*

*Chris Millward, Director of Widening Participation and Fair Access, the Office for Students*



## Our programme

Our programme is structured around a clear Theory of Change that ensures we can take every one of our students on the journey to a university meeting their potential



TAP's programme is structured to support students to meet five sets of outcomes from Year 10 to Year 13...



## The University Readiness Framework

### Knowledge

*about university applications, choices, student life and finance*

### Motivation

*to attend a top university and the ability to convincingly articulate it*

### Academic Results

### Independence

*to complete actions and actively engage in out of school activities to develop academic interests*

### Academic Self-efficacy

*to develop the self-awareness and self-belief required to achieve academic success*



## ...assessing progress at each stage of the journey...



### DESCRIPTION

Understands that there are a variety of potential courses that relate to their A Levels and that they are taught differently at different universities

### RAG DESCRIPTORS

Has talked through different potential courses that they may attend that they have previously researched

Has talked through different potential courses that they may attend with support from PC

Has not thought about university courses or has only considered one course or university

Assessed: **5 / 9**

RAG Average: **1.8**

Target Tier Threshold: **2.8**

### GROUPED OUTCOMES

Not Assessed outcomes are displayed in grey.

Y12STO31: Can articulate the link between end of year exams and their university applications (e.g. that they will influence their UCAS predicted grades)

Y12STO5: Is open to attending university and can articulate it

Y12STO24: Is open to out-of-town universities

Y12STO23: Has plans to attend university open days

Y12STO25: Has short list of potential courses and a long list of potential universities and can articulate academic interest in them

## ...and delivering through experts



**Academic tutor**

- Volunteer from business or university
- Advanced qualification in subject of tuition
- Trained by The Access Project
- Guided by the student's teacher on which topics to focus tuition
- Utilises Access Project materials supported by the University Access Officer in their student's school



**University Access Officer**

- Employed, trained and supported by The Access Project
- Based in the student's school
- Degree qualified
- Experienced in working with young people
- Passionate about university access
- Direct link in school for volunteers



## Our learnings

# The big picture



- Mentoring and tuition compliment each other to drive attainment. Focus on **subject-specific** skills and knowledge through 1-to-1 tuition **AND** on wider **meta-cognition and learning skills** through mentoring
- Support must be **long-term, sustained** and **intensive**
- Recruitment of students should be **targeted**
- To achieve this impact takes **many stakeholders** including students, schools, parents, teachers, tutors and programme staff. As such it needs close management as well as regular **programme development** and **evaluation of outcomes** to drive year on year improvements

# On mentoring for university readiness



- Mentors must be **well-trained** and highly skilled practitioners. Mentoring activities should be **quality assured**
- Mentors need **regular contact** and positive working relationships with **teachers, tutors, parents** and **students**
- Mentors need **up-to-date information** about how students are doing academically
- Mentoring should follow an **outcomes framework** which allows you to deliver **consistency** from student to student and identify how students are doing at any given point, at a **granular level**



# On one-to-one tuition



- Tutors must be **well-trained** and **supported** throughout their time as a tutor
- Tutors need access to **quality resources** and **teacher input**
- Raising attainment requires **higher intensity at A Level than at GCSE**
- Tuition must be **quality assured**
- It's **not easy to get a student to attend 20+ weekly tutorials**, they need to be supported and encouraged by the programme staff and school
- **Online tutorials** help you to support students living outside of cities

# If you'd like to hear more...



**About raising attainment and/or the possibility of partnering with The Access Project in the future:** [siobhan@theaccessproject.org.uk](mailto:siobhan@theaccessproject.org.uk)

**If you're interested in volunteering as a tutor yourself:**  
[volunteering@theaccessproject.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@theaccessproject.org.uk)

**General info:** [www.theaccessproject.org.uk](http://www.theaccessproject.org.uk)