

## NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

### Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Outreach) Award

### Name of project and institution

Students in Classrooms - Achievement Coach Scheme, Nottingham Trent University

### Brief Description

The Achievement Coach scheme places university students in Nottinghamshire schools to support pupils with literacy. Many young people in Nottinghamshire are unable to read at the required level for their age and with Ofsted describing reading as ‘the gateway to learning’, this is a barrier to accessing the curriculum. Students work one-to-one with pupils across ten weeks and are positive role models from a university setting, carefully selected and trained for the role. The scheme is an accessible opportunity for all schools, and benefits all stakeholders – pupils, schools and the students – who participate throughout the 10 weeks.

### Why has this project been nominated

Literacy rates in Nottinghamshire are below the national average with only 76% of primary pupils reaching ‘at least expected’. Nottingham Trent University’s Achievement Coach scheme aims to improve literacy levels in targeted Year 7 pupils across the region. This project is a successful widening access initiative that places students from Nottingham Trent University and University of Nottingham in local secondary schools. Students are recruited and trained to support 5 pupils each for one-to-one support. They work with their pupils for one hour per week, for ten weeks. Each hour consists of reading together to improve fluency and working through a literacy booklet, co-created with a local multi-academy trust, to improve comprehension and literacy knowledge. This structure ensures that the participating pupils, across all our partner schools, receive a similar intervention, which supports our evaluation of the scheme. At its core, the Achievement Coach scheme aims to support pupils not currently reaching their potential and, due to systemic challenges, are unable to access extra support in school. By placing university students in schools, these pupils have access to an individual intent on supporting them to develop a skill that is valued across all curriculums. The Achievement Coach scheme is a worthy nomination for this category, with a presence in many Nottinghamshire schools and it continues to grow. This widening access initiative has had some real successes over the past two years and is supporting the improvement of literacy rates with targeted pupils across the region.

### How long has the project been running

In its current format, we are in the second year.

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

22/23 - 271 Secondary pupils, 55 university students. 23/24 - 350 Secondary pupils, 70 university students.

## More details

<https://www.ntu.ac.uk/about-us/the-centre-for-student-and-community-engagement/opportunities-for-students/students-in-classrooms#:~:text=Students%20in%20Classrooms%20schemes%20provide,the%20opportunities%20it%20can%20offer.>

