'How Edtech can address challenges in WP'

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Three things:

1. Existing relationship between Edtech and WP.

2. Challenges facing the sector.

3. How Edtech can address these challenges.

What is Edtech?

Educational technology (Edtech) is one of the fastest growing areas of the tech sector.

Using technology to improve, augment, and enhance teaching and learning.

Why?

- Young people expect it.

- Requirements of the labour market (2.5m).

Edtech and the WP sector so far

Limited relationship.

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).

Focus of scholarship.

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Current challenges for WP

- Innovation.
- Participation.
- Elite institutions.
- Geography.

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Current challenges/ opportunities for WP (cont.)

- **'Rural and Coastal Disadvantage Working Group' (The Bridge Group, 2017)**
- '...the logistical difficulties in universities and employers engaging with remote schools.'
- Insufficient data capture of geography of spending.
- '...benefit from being introduced to a wider variety of role models. [...] This issue is compounded by [...] distance from universities...'

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What can Edtech do?

Can address the challenges by improving:
- Availability (removing limits on provision).
- Scalability (reaching more people more efficiently).
- Geography (overcoming distance).

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Good stuff happening already: Brightside

Brightside:

- Link student from disadvantaged backgrounds with volunteer mentors.
- Heavily focused on academic attainment.
- Collaborating with NCOP consortia: South Coast (ARCC, Kent and Medway Progression Federation, Sussex Learning Network, and the University of Portsmouth).

The Access Platform: our vision

Equal access to info is a key part of the challenges faced by the sector.

University information *on demand*.

Sounds grand, but think Airbnb or Uber.

Limits on provision

Reimagined situation.

The Access Platform: our vision

- Building on the direction of travel established by initiatives such as Brightside, however, we want to take things further and more fundamentally disrupt the way in which information about HE is accumulated, distributed, and consumed.
- We believe a key barrier to access is the disparity of information.
- Unapologetically Bourdieusian: we think that access to information about university can plug the gaps in social capital that exist in certain places and amongst certain groups.
- More socio-economically advantaged YP have access to conversations about universities and networks of real students (why shouldn't everyone?).

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Summary

How we have done this.