

## NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

### Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Outreach) Award

### Name of project and institution

Year 7 Reading, Hello Future

### Brief Description

Following an in-depth small n evaluation, that also included a comparator group, Hello Future's year 7 reading intervention showed positive impact and the potential to deliver continued future impact across Cumbrian schools. Evaluation demonstrated:

- Improvement in York Assessment of Reading Comprehension scores across each of the reading skills tested (reading rate, comprehension and single word recognition) within the Intervention group in both schools
- Students self-reporting increased confidence in their ability in reading and lesson participation.
- Teachers/ support staff reporting positive progress with vocabulary.
- Intervention practitioners reporting positive progress from the start to the end of the intervention.

### Why has this project been nominated

Following an in-depth small n evaluation in 2023-24, Hello Future's year 7 reading intervention showed positive impact and the potential to deliver continued future impact across Cumbrian schools. This was preceded with a pilot run in 2022-23, following an evidence review, consultation with the local authority literacy lead and reading intervention observations. In partnership with the University of Cumbria, we designed and ran the intervention as follows:

- 2x groups of 6 in each of the 2 schools
- 2 x 40-minute sessions per week during over 6 weeks
- Delivered by our graduate intern and officer team
- Held during, before and after the school day.
- A follow up book shop trip to enable learners to select their own book with a voucher

Using Pearson's Rapid Reading secondary school series, we continually worked with the schools to tailor and enhance the intervention. Further adaptations were made for 2023-24 delivery, running in the same schools and structure as above. In this phase it was in-school time delivery only. Six new students were selected per group, all had a lower-than-expected chronological reading age and were in receipt of Pupil Premium and/ or had another measure of disadvantage. On our request, the participating schools administered the highly diagnostic 'York Assessment of Reading' (YARC) to determine eligibility and to support the grouping of learners and identify reading skill focus (comprehension, word recognition, fluency). In phase two we focussed on comprehension and used the Connector series of books published by Scholastic, with a reciprocal reading structure.

### How long has the project been running

The project initially ran as a pilot in the academic year 2022-23 across two schools. It ran again in the Autumn term of 2023-24, with new learners in the same schools, in 2023-24 evaluation was embedded. We are about to embark on the intervention with other identified schools in Cumbria.

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

The pilot phase engaged four groups of six learners (24) In the Autumn term of 2023-24 we engaged a further 23 learners We are about to deliver the intervention again across other identified Cumbria schools, again in groups of 6, for the remainder of 2023-24. We also plan to continue delivery into 2024-25.

### More details

<https://www.hellofuture.ac.uk/our-programme-year-7/>

