



Attainment Raising programmes 2026-27

For the academic year 2026-27, neaco is offering a range of attainment raising programmes addressing our core areas of focus: oracy, literacy, study skills and metacognition.

Programmes are designed to offer progressive and sustained support, upskilling students during Key Stage 3 and building on these acquired skills during Key Stage 4 with a combination of targeted interventions that will help students be more prepared by the time of their GCSEs. Our programmes aim to target all underrepresented groups in Higher Education including Free School Meal learners. Each programme is accompanied by grab-and-go resources such as lesson plans, activity resources and facilitator guidance, enabling schools to reuse activities and embed programme elements within their own teaching. neaco programmes for 2026-27 are summarised overleaf and you can find details on our website.

Evaluation and research are central to our way of working. You'll be given full details about programme evaluation before you sign up. For all participants taking part in our attainment raising programmes, schools will be required to provide Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility information and, for some programmes, attainment data. This information enables us to evaluate the impact of our activities and ensure support is reaching the learners who will benefit most.

Attainment Raising core areas of focus:

Oracy skills, the capacity to develop and express ideas through speech, play a key role in students attainment levels, enhance confidence, self-esteem, and strengthen soft skills that are vital for later life.

Literacy - reading, writing, speaking and listening, with secondary school students expected to develop 'disciplinary literacy', applying more sophisticated subject specific language, knowledge and communication.

Study skills - developing key strategies for effective and independent study and learning has been found to have an important role in raising attainment.

Metacognition is simply 'thinking about thinking'. Effective metacognition strategies get students to think about their own learning through planning, monitoring and evaluating their own academic progress. Metacognitive strategies are embedded in each of our attainment-raising programmes to reinforce skills acquired in our metacognition programmes.

Next steps

Impact reports for our programmes can be found at <https://www.takeyourplace.ac.uk/about-us/reports-and-research/>

For full details of neaco Attainment Raising programmes visit: <https://www.takeyourplace.ac.uk/schools-colleges/attainment-raising/>

Please speak to your Higher Education Champion (HEC) for further information about data requirements and to book programmes for your students.

For any further queries please contact neaco@admin.cam.ac.uk

Attainment Raising programmes 2026-27

Make it Count is a **metacognition** programme for **Year 7** supporting students to gain strategies to help them feel confident and resilient to tackle challenges they are faced with in their learning.

Who for: Six students per school from FSM recipient and/or underrepresented groups in HE.

Programme: Eight one-hour weekly sessions in school with an HEC during the second half of the academic year.

Future Thinking is a **metacognition** programme for **Year 8 & 9** to develop metacognition through self-regulated learning, focusing on careers, pathways and Labour Market Information (LMI).

Who for: Twelve students per school from FSM recipient and underrepresented groups in HE.

Programme: Five one-hour weekly sessions with an HEC in school during the first half of the academic year plus a campus visit.

Reading Matters is a programme for **Year 7 & 8** to help develop key **literacy** skills, with a focus on disciplinary literacy.

Co-created with experts from National Literacy Trust, HECs and school Literacy Leads, and based on existing reading materials in key subjects across the curriculum.

Who for: 18 students per school in groups of 3- 6 from FSM recipient and underrepresented groups in HE.

Programme: 12 x 20-minute weekly sessions with an HEC in school during the autumn term (Y8) or spring/summer term (Y7). Can be delivered in tutor time.

Raise Your Words is a six-session programme for **Year 9** to develop key **oracy** skills with a focus on public speaking, presentation, building confidence and effective communication.

Who for: 15 students per school from FSM recipient and underrepresented groups in HE. Students who are on the GCSE English and Maths grade 3/4 boundary will be prioritised.

Programme: Six one-hour weekly sessions with an HEC on public speaking and presentation skills in school, plus an Oracy Day on campus at partner HEI with Speakers Trust workshop and campus tour.

Debate Club is a six-week programme for **Year 10** to develop key **oracy** skills through debating and help schools launch their own debating clubs as an extracurricular activity.

Who for: 15 students per school from FSM recipient and underrepresented groups in HE.

Programme: Autumn to spring term: six one-hour weekly sessions with an HEC in school.

Study Skills is a four-session programme for **Year 10 & 11** to help students feel confident and prepared to begin GCSE revision.

Who for: 15 students per school from FSM recipient and underrepresented groups in HE.

Programme: Four one-hour weekly sessions with an HEC in school, available year-round. Year 11 refresher session for schools who had the programme in Year 10. Parent/carers webinar. Optional two 15-minute whole year group study skills sessions for assemblies.