

TAKE YOUR PLACE



Attainment Raising programmes 2025-26

For the academic year 2025-26, neaco is offering a range of attainment raising programmes addressing our core areas of focus: oracy, literacy, study skills and metacognition. We have also introduced a year 9 & 10 Information & Guidance programme to support young people to make an informed decision about their Higher Education options.

Our 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 HE including Free School Meal learners. neaco programmes for 2025-26 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. **Speak to your Higher Education Champion (HEC) to book programmes for your students.**

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 Year 7 + 8 metacognition programmes.

Autumn term 2025	Spring term 2026	Summer term 2026
	Make it Count – Year 7	
Future Thinking (Year 8)		
	Reading Matters – Year 7	
Reading Matters – Year 8		
	Raise Your Words – Year 9	
Debate Club – Year 10		
	Study Skills – Year 10 & 11	
	IAG Year 9 & 10	



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



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 underrepresented groups in HE.

Programme: Eight one-hour weekly sessions in school with an HEC during the Spring and Summer terms.

Future Thinking is a **metacognition** programme for **Year 8** 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. Priority given to students who took part in Make it Count during 2024-2025.

Programme: Five one-hour weekly sessions with an HEC in school during the Autumn term plus campus visit in December/early Spring term.

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 (for each year group) in groups of up to 6 from FSM recipient and underrepresented groups in HE.

Programme: Six one-hour weekly sessions with an HEC in school during the Autumn term (Y8) or spring/summer term (Y7).

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

Who for:

- 30 students per school (2 x 15) 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:

- Delivered twice in the academic year (Spring and Summer terms).
- Type 3 Evaluation: Randomised Control Trial in which Group 1 receives the programme in Spring, and Group 2 (the control group) receives the programme in Summer.
- Six one-hour weekly sessions with an HEC on public speaking and presentation skills in school.
- Two one-hour sessions for pre and post programme oracy assessment in school to measure impact (Spring term).
- Final event: Oracy Day on campus at partner HEI with Speakers Trust workshop and campus tour [w/c 16 March (Group 1) and 15 June (Group 2) TBA].
- School benefits from a detailed evaluation and impact report.

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.
- Legacy pack for schools to provide guidance on running a debating club.
- Opportunity for schools to observe debates at FE colleges and HE institutions and to take part in debating competitions.

Study Skills is a six-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:

- Parent/carer activities will be embedded in the programme.
- Available year-round.
- Six one-hour weekly sessions with 15 students.
- Year 11 refresher session for schools who had the programme in Year 10.
- Optional two 20-minute whole year group study skills sessions.

Student Led Projects is a flexible and creative project that aims to deliver a unique programme of Information and guidance (IAG) activity for students in **Year 9 & 10** whilst also building self-efficacy.

Who is it for? Year 9 & Year 10 students / 15 student per group / Students from an underrepresented group, and who are already enrolled on a neaco attainment raising programme.

Programme:

- Block of 8 hours of core delivery, designed to be delivered flexibly with the school timetable (i.e. 1-hour sessions delivered over 8 weeks or via two intensive days).
- Students lead the programme, with session 0 developed as a facilitated review workshop designed to understand what IAG topics the students wish to learn more about.
- Students learn specific up-to-date IAG information, and in turn, create their own unique projects designed to complement their schools' careers curriculum as a sustainable IAG resource for both peers and school staff.

Oracy Education Community of Practice is a hub for **teachers** to share best practice in oracy education and receive talks from experts in collaboration with Oracy Cambridge: The Hughes Hall Centre for Effective Spoken Communication.

Who for: Open to teachers across different subjects and including senior leadership.

Programme: Online termly meetings and one yearly in-person meeting to share best practice and hear from Oracy experts.