

The Aimhigher London South NCOP Programme has been progressing full steam ahead! The London NCOP Consortium held its first Governing Body Meeting at Kingston University, on the 20th April, chaired by Kingston University's Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Mackintosh, and attended by Aimhigher London South Director, Suzanne Marchment. Along with NCOP Project Manager, Mark Ellis, our NCOP Coordinator, Justine Marcham is now in post and both have begun, as of 2nd May, to host NCOP hub meetings across South London. These meetings bring together AHLS, our partner schools and partner HEIs to share best practice and a wealth of experience, to develop a truly comprehensive and innovative programme for our NCOP cohort. Working together, the hubs have developed a programme to best promote our students' knowledge, confidence, skills and HE pathways options. Each of our four hubs have planned their community based NCOP launch events with us and we had a fantastic evening at the Sutton launch celebrating with 200 students, parents, teachers and figures who are important to the young people in the local community, on this occasion, the Mayor of Sutton.

Our bespoke coaching programme is also progressing well and our under-graduate and graduate coaches have under-gone intensive training over the course of two weeks to fully prepare them to mentor our NCOP students and to both inform and support their pathways choices. The coaches are now undergoing further training with coaching supervisors and will have had more than two months practice coaching themselves when they are paired with their student coachees, who have had their own training experience, next month.

We are also in the midst of planning a bespoke NCOP Year 10 Conference, in consultation with partner schools and HEIs, to ensure that our Year 10 students have all of the latest accurate information to support their future plans. The Conference will be dispelling myths, explaining personally developed routes to HE and providing impartial pathways information about graduate careers.

There is much more to come and of course, all of our activities and the programme as a whole will be regularly evaluated for impact, so watch this space for further updates and if you would like to find out more information about the national picture, you can find all the information on the HEFCE website.