

# GREATER MANCHESTER HIGHER AND GATSBY

**How to make the most out of your engagement**

## Introduction

GM Higher is a collaborative network of higher education providers in Greater Manchester who are working together to raise the ambitions of young people and the awareness of higher education through providing impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG), alongside a menu of outreach activities.

Our programme was developed in consultation with teachers, advisors and other stakeholders. It is collaborative, impartial and targeted. For more information about our programme please visit [gmhigher.ac.uk](http://gmhigher.ac.uk) or contact your local [Hub Manager](#).

We deliver the government-funded NCOP programme in Greater Manchester, a programme with the overall aim of reaching the Government's goal of doubling participation in higher education amongst disadvantaged groups by 2020.

Greater Manchester Higher can support schools to work towards Ofsted objectives and the Department for Education's expectations for Careers Guidance and provider access to schools.

As career aspirations play a significant role in decision-making about higher education, we are working to embed careers related content in to our activity (with a higher-level skills focus). However, we are not a careers specialist and employability is not our primary focus.

All of our activities support Gatsby Benchmark 7, but some activities such as our 1-2-1 HE guidance interviews and Industry Insight events map across multiple Benchmarks. We have highlighted which activities support the Gatsby benchmarks in each of our programmes, which are available to download here: [gmhigher.ac.uk/teachers](http://gmhigher.ac.uk/teachers)

The purpose of this document is to help teachers/advisors to consider how they can best connect their engagement with GM Higher to their wider careers programme and implement the Gatsby Benchmarks in line with the statutory careers guidance. Further information about the Gatsby Benchmarks can be found here: [careersandenterprise.co.uk/schools-colleges/understand-gatsby-benchmarks](http://careersandenterprise.co.uk/schools-colleges/understand-gatsby-benchmarks)

## Benchmark

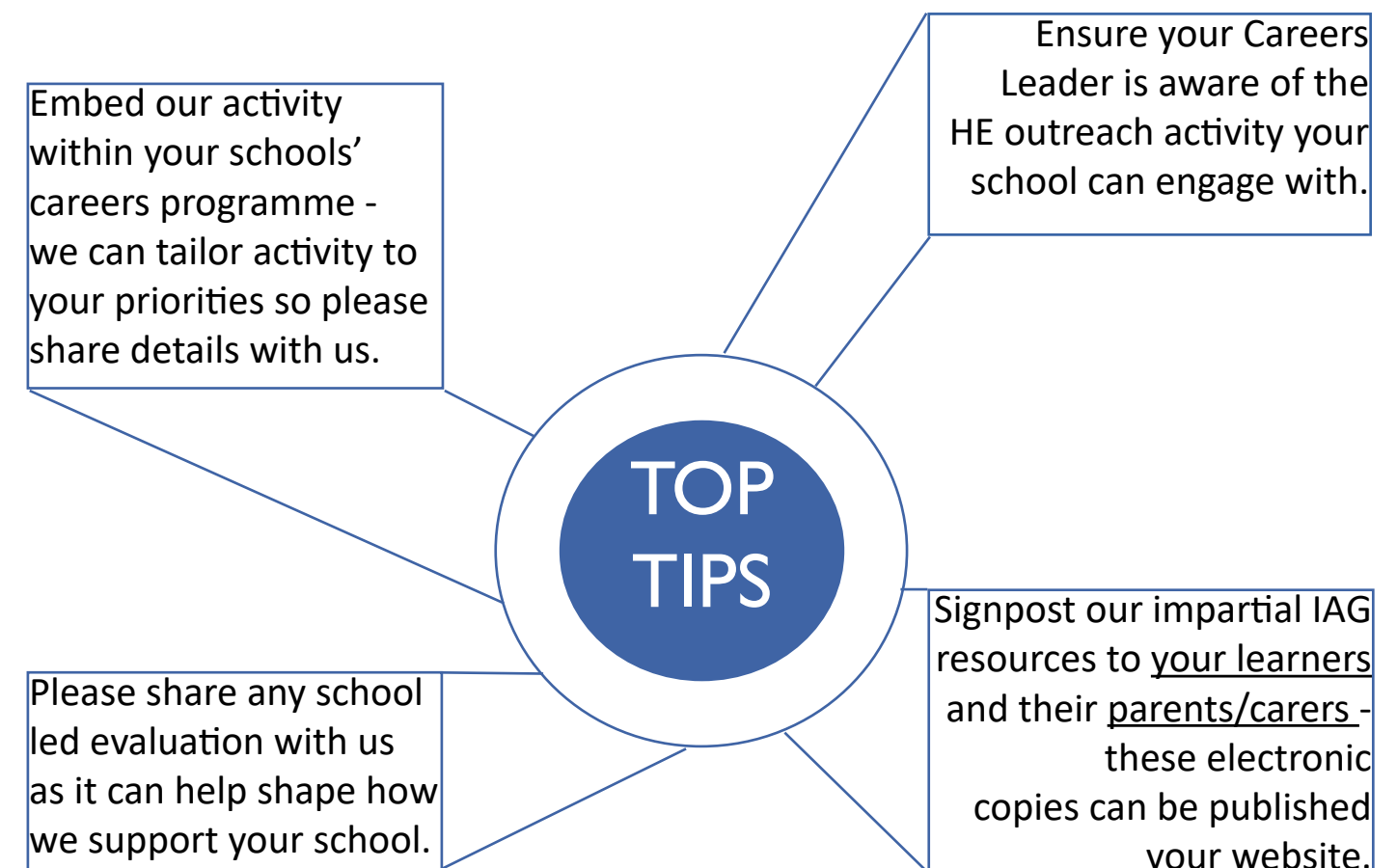
### A stable careers programme

Every school and college should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by students, parents, teachers, governors and employers.

### What we do

Our activity is most effective when delivered as part of a planned programme. We can tailor our offer to compliment your school/college programme and existing initiatives.

If you have completed the Compass Tool it is helpful to share your findings (particularly for Benchmark 7) with your local Hub Manager so they can tailor the support they give to your school/college priorities.



## Benchmark 2

### Learning from career & labour market information

Every student, and their parents, should have access to good quality information about future study options & labour market opportunities. They will need the support of an informed adviser to make best use of available information.

#### What we do

We use labour market information to inform our activity programme with a focus on increasing awareness of graduate level career opportunities and local growth sectors.

We can provide access to SACU (an online careers portal) supported by 1-2-1 HE guidance interviews for target Y11-13 learners so they can explore career pathways in more depth.

We are not labour market specialists. Other organisations such as Bridge GM and The Careers and Enterprise Company may be able to support you to access and understand labour market information.

Look out for our Industry Insights activities, which focus on key sectors. These activities highlight the opportunities, careers and employment options higher education can bring, whilst also providing information about progression routes.

#### TOP TIPS

Speak to your Hub Manager to arrange 1-2-1 HE guidance interviews for your target Y11-13 learners so they can explore future options and labour market opportunities.

## Benchmark 3

### Addressing the needs of each student

Students have different career guidance needs at different stages. Opportunities for advice and support need to be tailored to the needs of each student. A school's careers programme should embed equality and diversity considerations throughout.

#### What we do

GM Higher delivers a Targeted Learners programme, which is open to all GM schools and offers tailored events for disabled learners, carers and looked after children (and their supporters).

Our team of Graduate Advisors have undertaken a level 3 qualification in information, advice and guidance and are available to deliver impartial 1-2-1 HE guidance interviews with target learners in Y11-13 using the SACU platform to explore their future options.

Taking part in our 1-2-1 interviews can help to increase focus on higher education options. They are designed to enhance not replace your school/college led 1-2-1 guidance provision.

We have a range of mentoring programmes that can provide personalised and tailored information to small groups of learners in Y10 and individuals in Y12 and Y13.

Take a look at our Targeted Learners programme for tailored events for disabled learners, carers and looked after children (and their supporters).

#### TOP TIPS

Speak to your Hub Manager to arrange 1-2-1 HE guidance interviews for your target learners and to find out more about how our mentoring programmes can support you to address the needs of each student.

## Benchmark 4

### Linking curriculum learning to careers

All teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths.

#### What we do

Our curriculum enrichment activities cover a range of curriculum areas from English and Maths to Business and Law, and from Creative Arts and Media to STEM and Humanities. They are designed to enhance students' current learning, whilst offering an insight into university.

We also offer a wide range of STEM-related activities via our HE Subject Tasters and Industry Insight strands.

Take a look at our Curriculum Connections, HE Subject Taster and Industry Insight activities on our website - we have a wide range of STEM related activities. You can search by subject area using our [activity and event search tool](#).

TOP  
TIPS

Speak to your [Hub Manager](#) about your STEM priorities so they can highlight which of our activities will best meet your needs.

## Benchmark 5

### Encounters with employers and employees

Every student should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes.

#### What we do

To support learners to connect the dots between education and employment we look to embed employer interactions in our activity where we can. Examples include guest speakers at our HE subject tasters and employer led activities in our Industry Insight activities.

We work closely with [Bridge GM](#) and the [Careers and Enterprise company](#) who can provide further support with engaging employers.

Take a look at our Industry Insight and HE Subject Tasters on our [Events & Activities page](#) to see where employers are involved - your Hub Manager can help you with this!

TOP  
TIPS

## Benchmark

6

### Experiences of workplaces

Every student should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities, and expand their networks.

#### What we do

We do not organise work experience.

Occasionally we are able to incorporate workplace visits in to our activities.

Other organisations such as [Bridge GM](#) may be able to provide further support with experiences of workplaces.

TOP  
TIPS

Keep an eye out via our Industry Insight programme for the occasional events that incorporate a workplace visit.

## Benchmark

7

### Encounters with Further and Higher Education

All students should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace.

#### What we do

All GM Higher activities can contribute towards this benchmark as we provide impartial IAG about HE to help students to make informed decisions. We promote both traditional and non-traditional routes to HE.

GM Higher activities provide an opportunity to engage with outreach staff, academics and current HE students from across our partner institutions.

GM Higher offer a wide range of on-campus activities free of charge, as do our partner institutions via their widening participation and recruitment programmes. These activities will be funded by project funding, such as NCOP or through the institution's own Access and Participation Plans (details of which will be published on institutional websites). For further information about Access and Participation plans visit the [Office for Students](#) website.

The majority of HE institutions cannot accept requests for whole year group visits. Schools will be expected to select a targeted group of students who meet specific criteria, which will often be based on the funding stream/type being used.

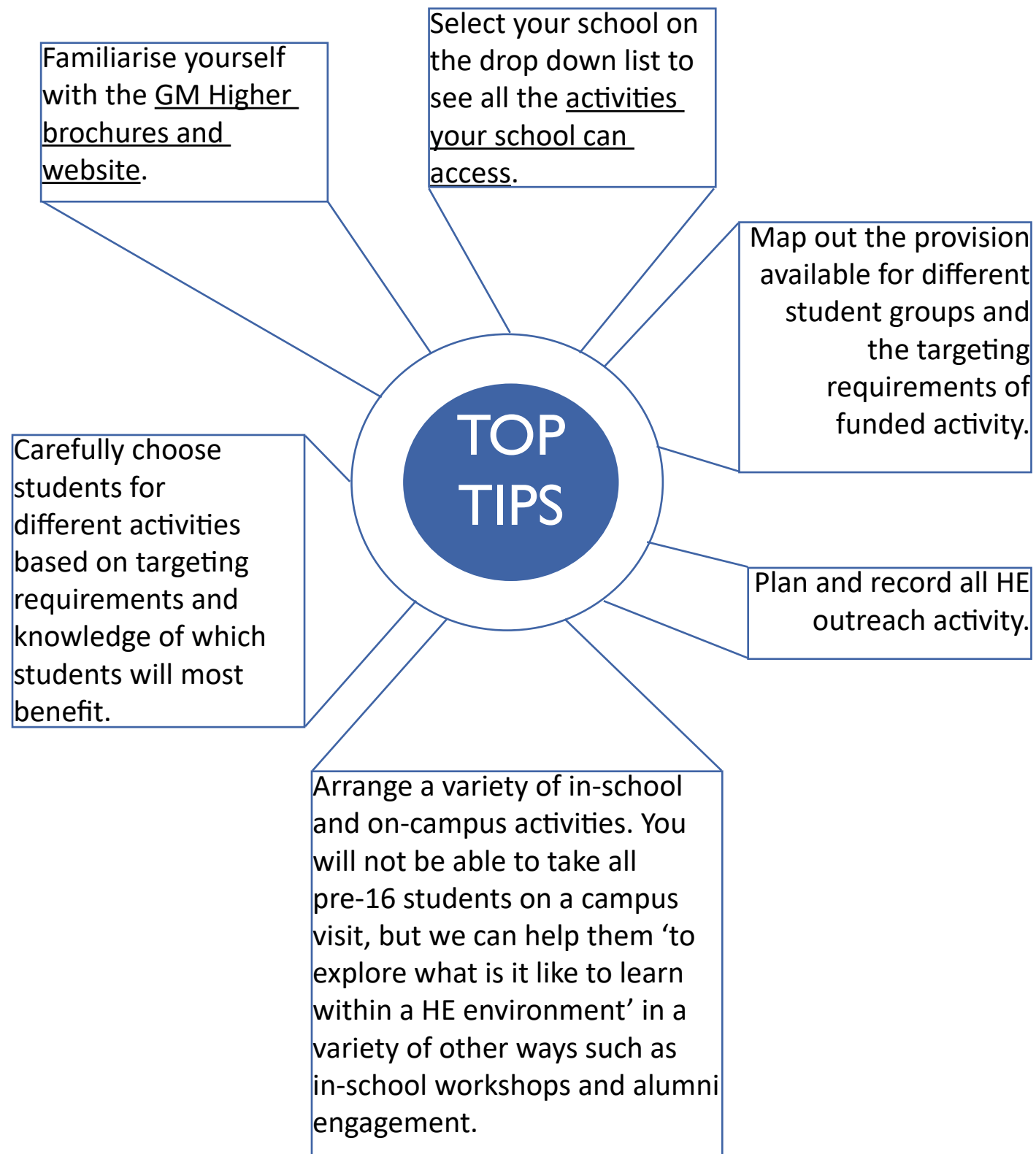
Different school eligibility measures apply to different activities dependent on the funding stream/type used. For example, GM Higher offers a basic package for all Greater Manchester schools, but programmes that are more intensive are reserved for NCOP schools.



## Benchmark

7

### Encounters with Further and Higher Education



## Benchmark

8

### Personal Guidance

Every student should have opportunities for guidance interviews with a career adviser, who could be internal (a member of school staff) or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level. These should be available whenever significant study or career choices are being made.

### What we do

Our team of Graduate Advisors have undertaken a level 3 qualification in information, advice and guidance and are available to deliver impartial 1-2-1 HE guidance interviews with target learners in Y11-13 using the SACU platform to explore their future options.

Taking part in our 1-2-1 HE guidance interviews can help to increase focus on higher education options. They are designed to enhance not replace school's own 1-2-1 guidance provision.

