



# Horizons Wales Mission & Outlook 2018

OUR MISSION AND AN OUTLINE OF OUR STEPS TO IMPROVING OUR EFFECTIVENESS THROUGHOUT 2018.



## Mission

Founded in 2015, Horizons Wales is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving access to higher education and top-flight careers for disadvantaged young people across West Wales.

Our mission:

*"To provide educational and careers support, advice and mentoring to young people in West Wales to broaden their horizons and inspire them to achieve their full potential." - Richard Gardner, Chairperson*

*Why do we exist?* - In 2012, fewer applications were made from Wales in total to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge than the county of Surrey. Welsh students score the lowest of all UK regions in the PISA world education rankings. Wales also has the highest rate of child poverty than any region of the UK.

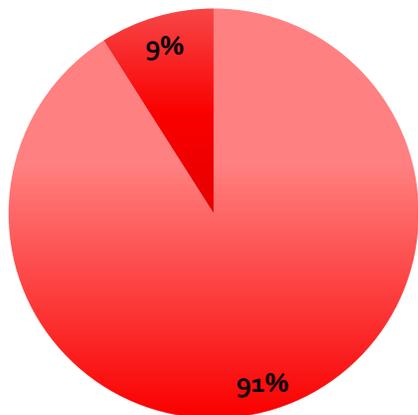
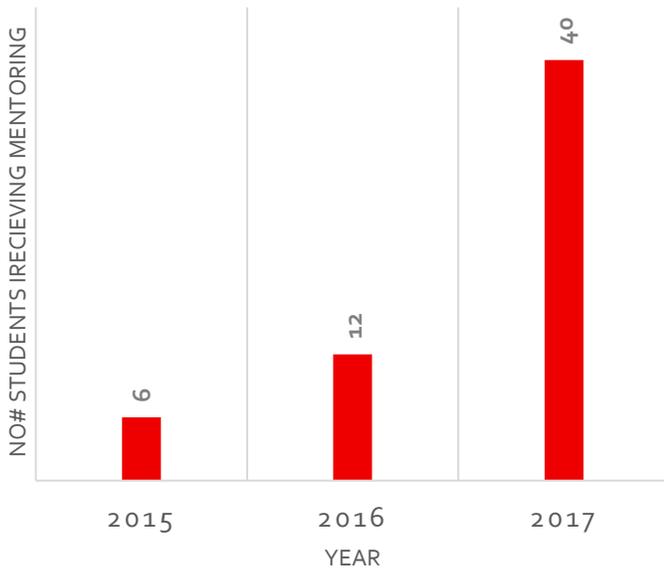
To achieve our mission, we work closely with local schools and a large team of dedicated mentors who volunteer their expertise to help mentor, encourage and inspire young people interested in applying to study in their field.

We provide:

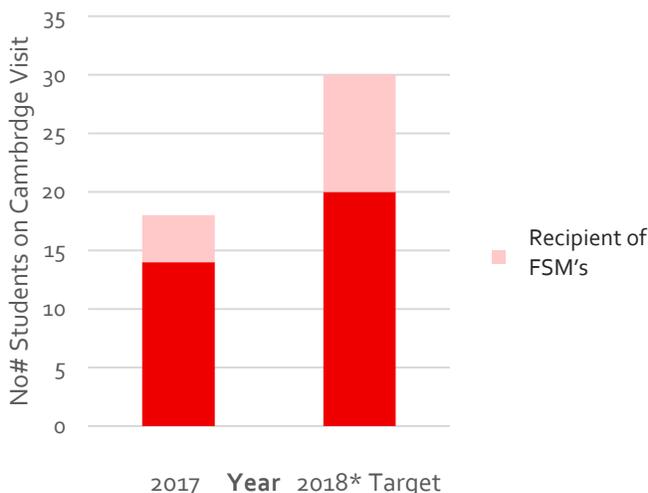
- Tailored application guidance via a mentorship programme.
- Careers and interview support.
- Inspirational trips & away-days.

We have an open-door policy to any young person in West Wales and target our support towards those in full-time education and from a disadvantaged background.

# What we do in Numbers



- Reached 1st or 2nd Choice University
- Did not reach 1st or 2nd preference



## Mentoring:

In recent years, the number of students we have supported via our mentorship programme has steadily risen with 40 local students being supported in 2017.

In 2017 the number of students in our mentor scheme who reached their first or second choice university was greater than 90%.

In 2017 6 students received Interview practise from a mentor. 2 students successfully received offers from Oxford or Cambridge. 2 students successfully received an offer to study medicine.

## Inspirational trips:

In October 2017, 18 students were selected to visit Caius College Cambridge to meet students, receive lectures and get inspired.

20% of those who attended were pupils from the poorest backgrounds as indicated by being recipients of free school meals. A bursary was made available to them to cover costs.

In the coming year we will be attending Jesus College, University of Oxford. We have increased the number of places available on the trip from 18 to 30 and aim to ensure at least 1/3 of students accepted will be from the poorest backgrounds.

## Our goals for 2018:

- Increase the number of places available for our Oxbridge acquaintance day 2018 from 18 to a minimum of 30 and with at least one third of attendees being from the disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Ensure the Oxbridge acquaintance day 2018 is free for all students.
- Ensure all 70 mentors in our mentor database are CRB checked and where necessary provide CRB checks for active mentors.
- Foster relationships with subject-specific industry to provide and help fund inspiration trips, 'day-in-the-life' days or competitive work experience opportunities for bright & disadvantaged students interested in pursuing their key subject.

Horizons Wales –

<http://horizonswales.org/>

Also keep up with us on Social media under Horizons Wales:



## Have any questions?

We're here to help. Connect with us on social media under @HorizonsWales or via our website: [www.horizonswales.org](http://www.horizonswales.org)

For all other queries please feel free to contact us at: [admin@horizonswales.org](mailto:admin@horizonswales.org)