



## Student Transitions: Example of transitions practice

**Title:** The Northern Lights programme

**Transition(s) the practice supports:** S1 & S2 pupils considering future educational options.

**Abstract:** ACCESS RGU is working in collaboration with Aberdeen City Council's Northfield Academy to deliver the Northern Lights programme. The programme is being run with a group of S1 & S2 pupils, referred to by the Academy, and includes sessions that enable participants to explore a range of further and higher education opportunities and study pathways.

**Description:** The Northern Lights programme, which is co-ordinated and delivered by staff from the university's Study Skills and Access Unit, with the support of a designated teacher within Northfield Academy, aims to encourage school pupils to consider a range of further and higher education options.

Following initial sessions to introduce pupils and their parents and carers to the programme and the staff involved, pupils participate in approximately five engagement sessions during the school year. Activities take place both in school and on campus and are designed to maximise the potential and develop the confidence of participants. Pupils will progress through the programme into their 2nd year and continue to benefit from a further year of engagement activities.

The second stage of the programme involves pupils coming to campus in order to take part in a number of programme specific workshops. Pupils have visited the engineering department where, with support from student ambassadors and staff members, they managed to build a circuit board and enjoyed a tour around the laboratory. Pupils have also visited the media department where they carried out radio and TV interviews as well as creating stop motion animations.

Throughout their time on the programme, pupils will reflect on their learning at key stages and record their experiences by completing a 'Passport to Success' personal achievement record.

RGU is looking forward to continuing to build a strong working relationship with Northfield Academy and will visit the school in 2016 to help pupils on the programme to reflect on what they have seen and learned so far.

**Contact details:** Geraldine Lynch, [g.c.lynch@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:g.c.lynch@rgu.ac.uk)

**All examples provided will be posted to the Enhancement Themes website with the intention of including them in the National Transitions map.**