

Join the Dots: schools , universities and student transitions

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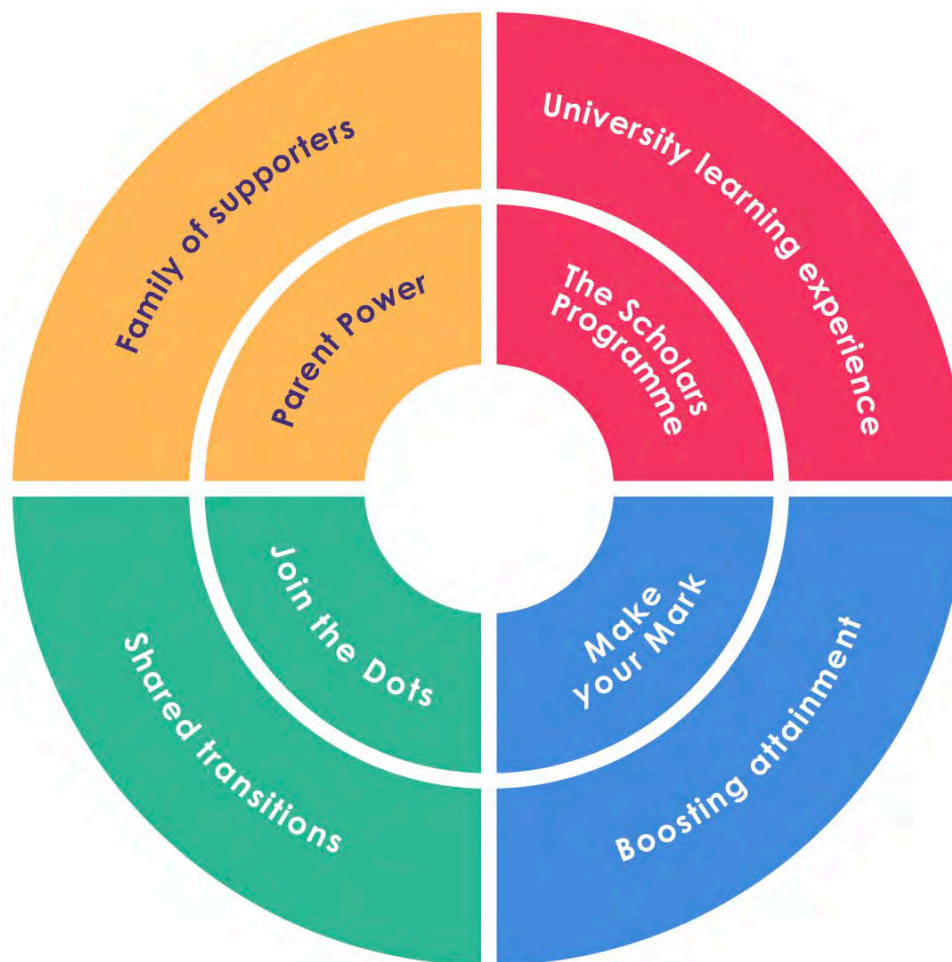


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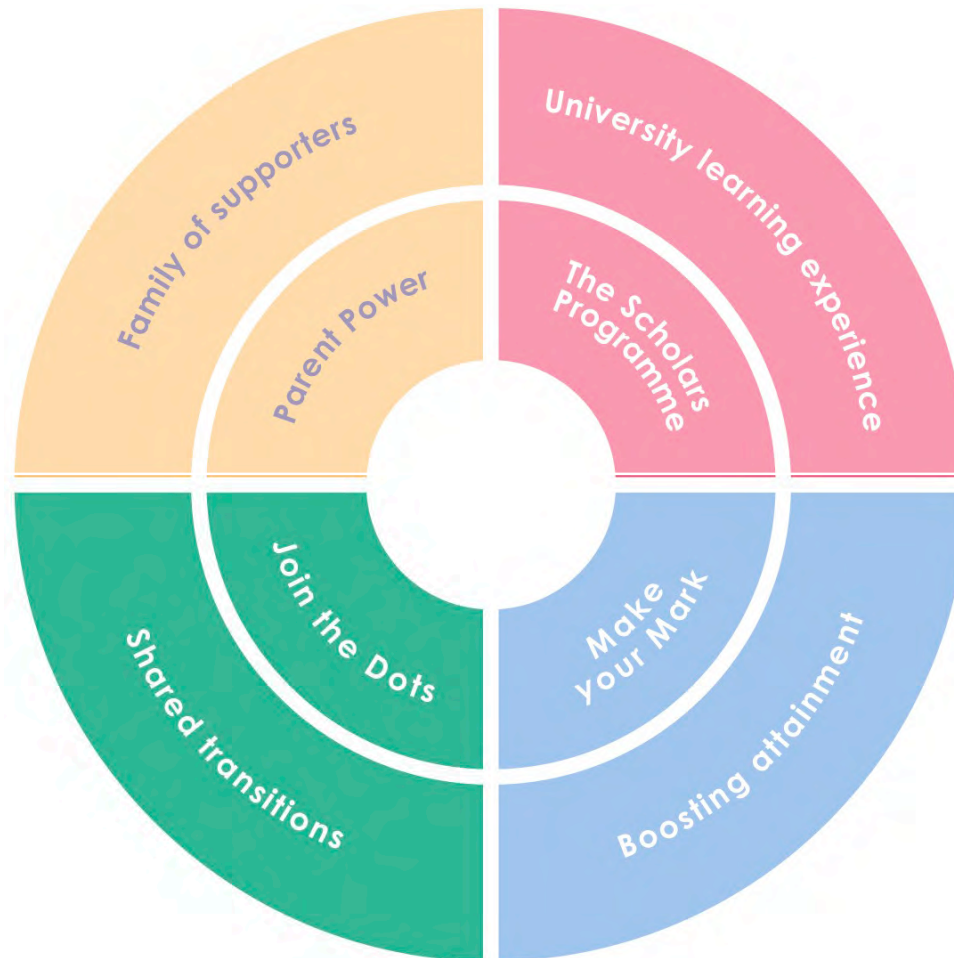
The Brilliant Club works with schools and universities across the UK. We mobilise the PhD community to support students who are less advantaged to access the most competitive universities and succeed when they get there.



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Why JTD



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Right now, students from the **least advantaged** backgrounds have a **1 in 50** chance of accessing the most competitive universities, compared to **1 in 4** of the **most advantaged**.

🎓

This disadvantage doesn't disappear when they enter university.

📄

This affects an individual beyond their time at university and impacts society as a whole.

Disadvantaged students are therefore **18x** more likely to miss out on life-changing higher education.

DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS ARE **3x** MORE LIKELY TO MISS OUT ON A 1ST OR 2:1 GRADE AT UNIVERSITY

Graduates from the most competitive universities are more likely to access professional careers and have higher rates of life satisfaction. On average, they will earn **£10,000** more than their peers.

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We believe it is fundamentally unfair that a young person should miss out on these opportunities simply because of their background.



Co-creation and student voice



Student Voice: The Experience Experts Panel

- Importance of support with study skills
- Need to normalise feelings of imposter syndrome through relatable mentors

Building on the evidence base



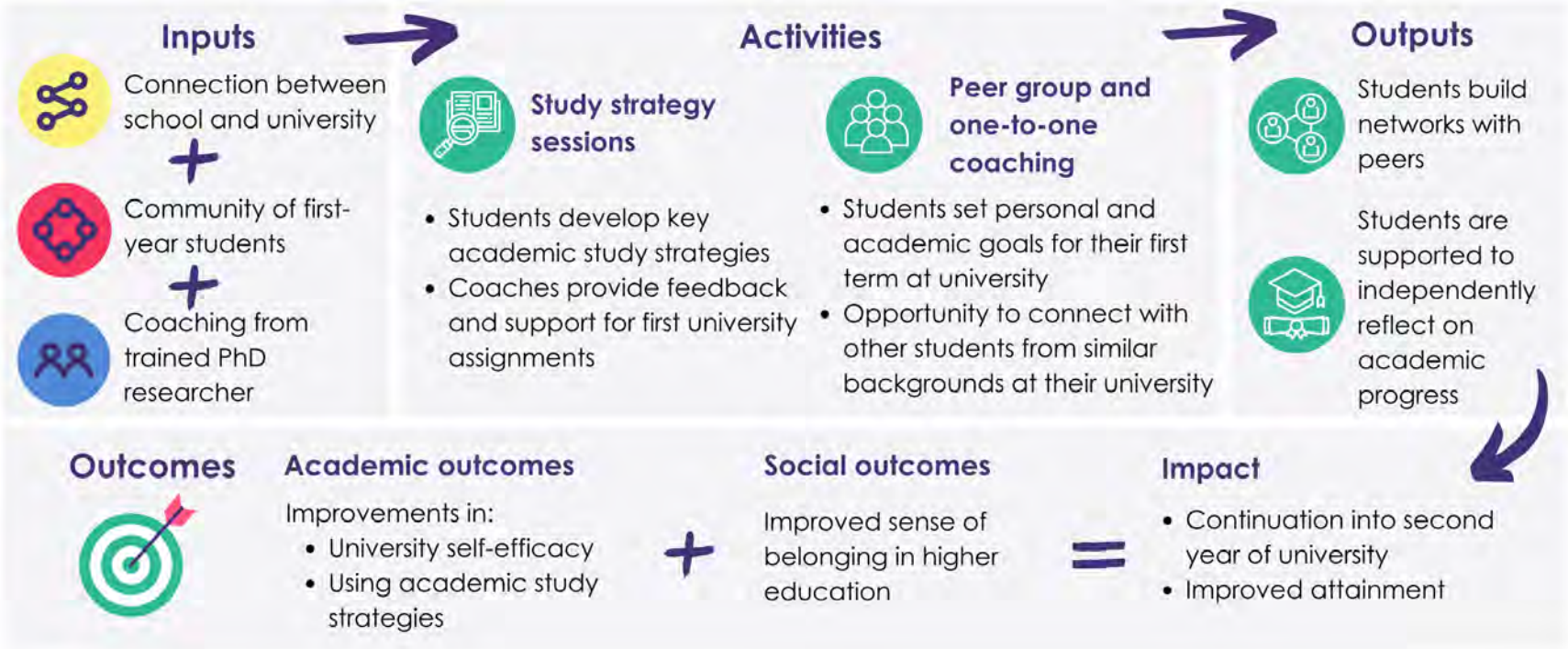
- We reviewed the research literature on the most important factors for student success (=university retention and degree outcomes)
- **Academic self-efficacy** (confidence in ability to succeed academically) consistently emerges as top predictor of attainment and retention in HE
- Use of effective **study strategies** is important for attainment and students told us they would like support with this
- **Sense of belonging** in HE is important for attainment and retention and can be improved through intervention

Join the Dots - Theory of Change



Mission

The Brilliant Club's Join the Dots programme supports students from disadvantaged backgrounds during the transition from school to university.



Pilot overview



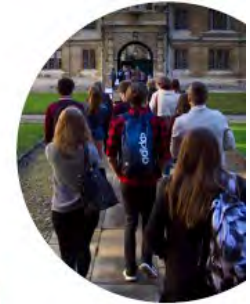
Connections



Communities



Coaching





Evaluation approach

Intermediate outcomes

Sense of belonging
Academic self-efficacy
Study strategy use



Long-term outcomes

Second year continuation
Degree completion
Degree outcomes

October 2022

November 2022

January 2023

September 2023 (& beyond)

Intermediate outcomes survey 1

Intermediate outcomes survey 2

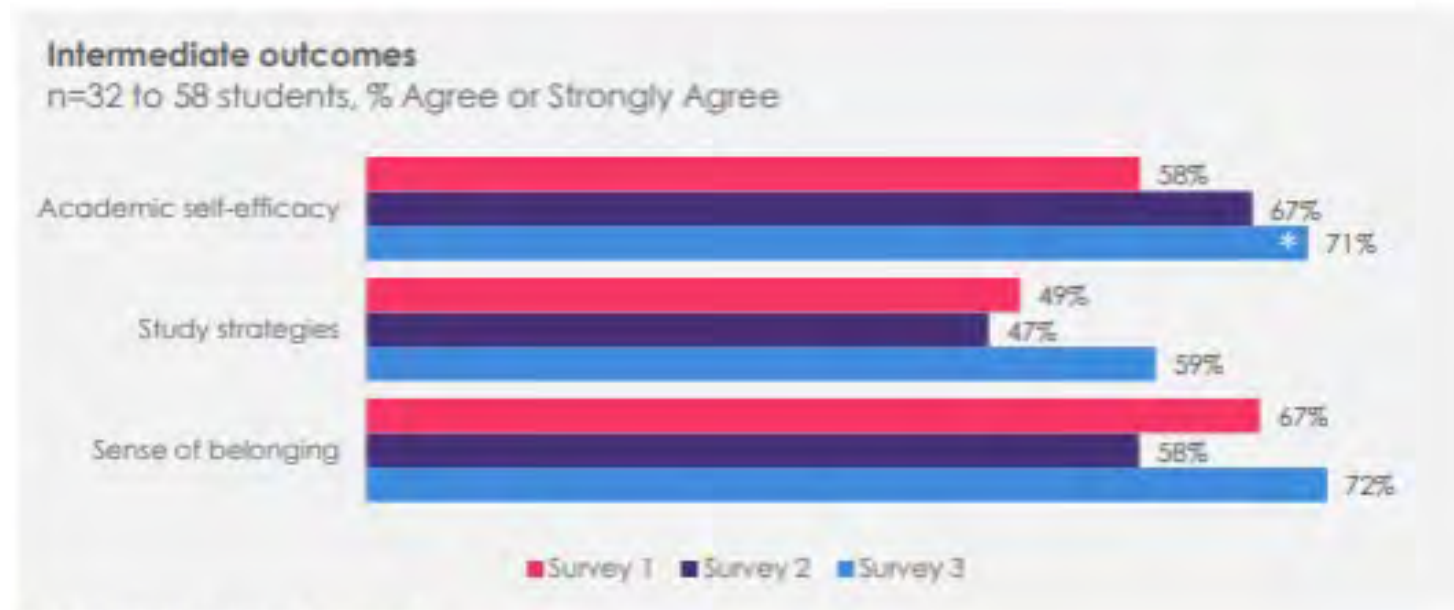
Intermediate outcomes survey 3

Tracking students through HEAT

Focus group 1

Focus group 2

A statistically significant increase in academic self-efficacy and increase in study strategy use and sense of belonging



*statistically significant increase

Consistently positive qualitative feedback



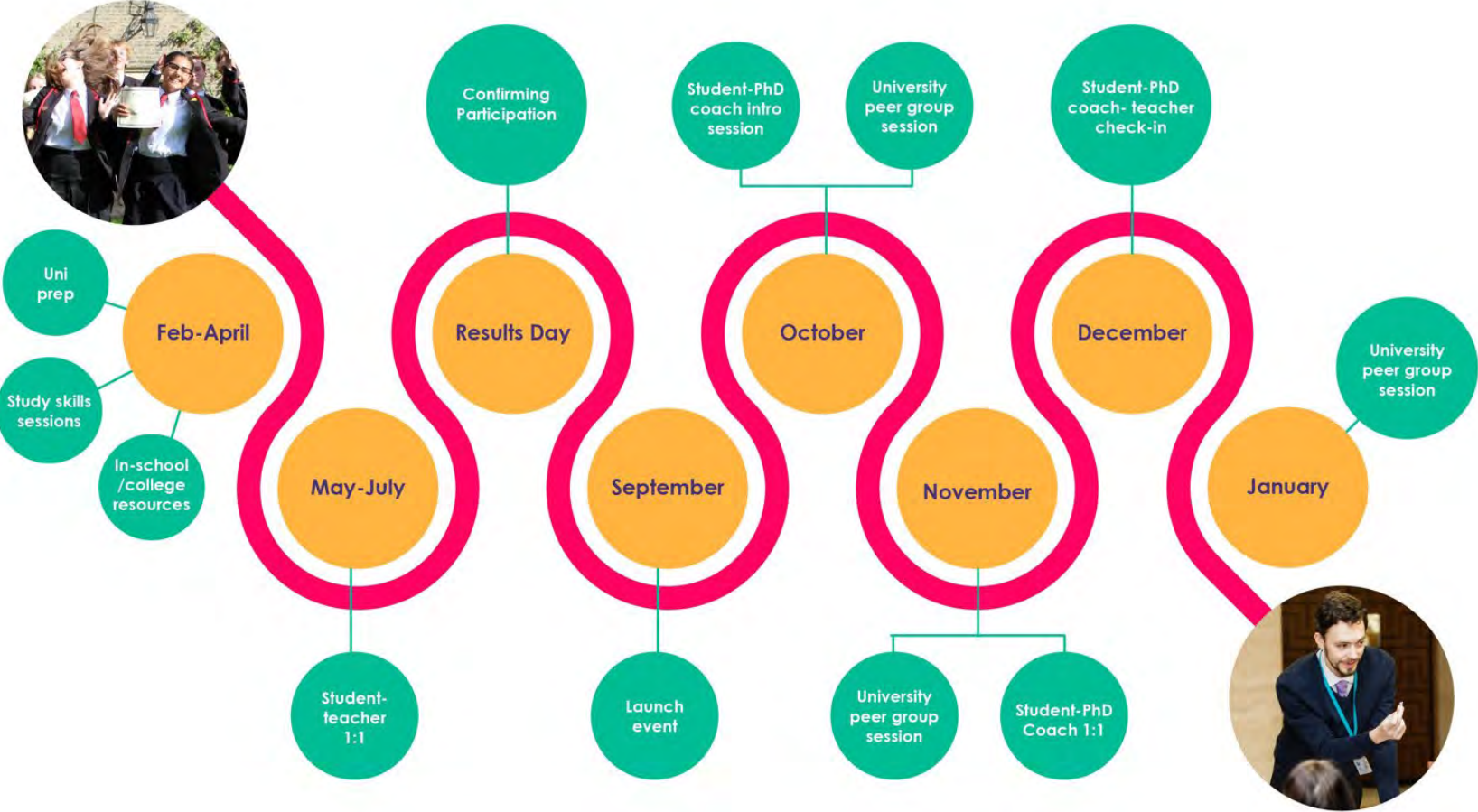
- “The programme has helped me understand what it means to be an independent learner and my coach has given great assistance and feedback to my coursework” – **KCL student**
- “It’s great to have a mentor to widen your support system” – **Royal Holloway student**
- “Join the Dots have been very helpful when I got started at Kings because when I am in doubt they have always replied back to my emails and their sessions have also been useful” – **KCL student**
- “Since joining the programme, I have gotten a lot of support from my tutor, and I have improved in terms of preparing for my assessments” – **Southampton student**
- “The support I have received from my coach has been quite helpful, they have helped me with the layout of how I am supposed to write a uni assignment.” – **Kingston student**



Lessons learnt

- Student communication and attrition
- Teacher capacity
- What is 'success' and messaging to coaches
- Focus group feedback:
 - Students wanted clarity on which elements were compulsory
 - Different students valued different aspects – e.g. 1:1 or group sessions
- Thinking about what is success, e.g. attendance v student decisions

Year 2



Thank you

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