

aspire



A GENERATION OF TRANSFORMATION

IN THIS ISSUE

A Generation of Transformation

A lot can change in 20 years, but our students know **IntoUniversity** is there to support them. We spoke to five of these young people at different stages of their educational and employment journey about what makes **IntoUniversity** special to them.

A legacy of generosity

The passing of the Queen has affected us all in one way or another. At **IntoUniversity**, we've been reflecting on her remarkable charitable legacy, and how it impacted the growth of the organisation.

The steps to success

Young people can face many barriers to success throughout their educational journey but **IntoUniversity** is here to help every step of the way. Find out how by unfolding *aspire* and playing our new board game!

Tackling educational inequalities is a marathon, not a sprint



Dr. Rachel Carr
Chief Executive and Co-Founder,
IntoUniversity

IntoUniversity Co-Founder Rachel Carr reflects on what she's learned from 20 years at the helm of the charity, and the challenges that are still to come.

The 20th anniversary of any charity is no doubt a significant milestone, but the nature of the work we do at **IntoUniversity**, makes this particular moment in time especially poignant. Tackling inequalities in education is by its nature a long-term endeavour, and its success therefore needs to be viewed through a long-term lens.

20 years represents a generation. Dreams that were first imagined 20 years ago are now becoming a reality. Potential that was then untapped is now being realised. The first seven year olds we worked with are now in their mid-twenties. The communities we are part of have evolved. Societal attitudes, technology, and the political and economic landscape have all shifted.

At **IntoUniversity**, we've transformed in ways we could never have imagined when we first decided to provide support for the young people in our local community back in the early 2000s. Two decades on and we're now a national charity with over 35 centres, serving communities up and down England and Scotland, and working with tens of thousands of young people.

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Over the years there have been numerous achievements we're proud to celebrate and we've seen countless young people go on to do amazing things after working with us. We're particularly pleased to have been recognised as the *Charity Times* Charity of the Year 2022, an accolade we've been honoured to receive three times now in our 20-year history. But the real value of our work needs to be judged over decades, rather than years. Our 20th anniversary represents, therefore, the perfect opportunity to both reflect on the journey so far, and consider where it might lead us next.



Our approach at **IntoUniversity** has been to try and replicate the type of holistic support a young person from an advantaged background might receive from their family network within our centres, helping them to discover their focus and build the capabilities they will need to reach their full potential, whether that be through a route into higher education or work.

Crucial to this is understanding the multifaceted and ongoing nature of the support required. We try to replicate these advantages to create a more equitable situation for young people from less advantaged backgrounds, recognising that we cannot simply rely on quick fixes or one-dimensional approaches.

Of course, that's not to say that efforts to address educational inequality can be tossed into the long grass - far from it. But a wide range of support and skills are needed to ensure young people have the right environment, academic support, resources and opportunities to navigate the system and reach their full potential. It's also imperative that we truly understand the communities we work in and become attuned to the range of local issues that they contend with. This is something which is very difficult to do without being physically embedded within the neighbourhoods in which we work, and committing to working with them over a substantial period of time. This way, we can evolve with communities and adapt to changes in the local landscape and wider society.

As we embark on the next 20 years at **IntoUniversity**, this approach will remain central to everything we do.

Finally, we must take this opportunity to thank every single person who has enabled us to reach this milestone: our funders, our trustees, colleagues and staff, community leaders, schools, and of course, the amazing young people and their families.

Celebrating 20 years

A Generation of Transformation

A lot can change in 20 years, but our students know **Into**University is there to support them. We spoke to five of these young people at different stages of their educational and employment journey about the significance of this support, and what makes **Into**University special to them.



Sophia, Year 5, **Into**University Kennington

Sophia first started attending Primary Academic Support at **Into**University Kennington, when she was in Year 3, after her mum signed her up having heard positive things through family friends who also attended the centre. Sophia has an incredibly supportive family, but her busy home environment and a lack of access to technology make it hard for her to do school work at home.

“I feel like there’s a magic trick that the adults are speaking to the children to help them be good. Everyone is so kind and caring and understanding; no one judges you. That’s something I really like. Everyone always listens and tries to understand.”

James - P6, **Into**University Craigmillar

James first became involved with **Into**University when he attended a ‘Sustainability’ Primary FOCUS Week with his class. Soon after the FOCUS Week, James signed up to Primary Academic Support and is now a regular attendee. James was initially very reserved when he first started attending the centre but the staff team has seen developments in James’ confidence each week.

“My favourite part of **Into**University is learning new things each week. The sessions are really fun. The classroom is open and there is lots of space for us to be free and learn. It is a really fun community club. I have made lots of new friends as well as seeing people from school.”



Lexie – Year 10, **Into**University Bow

Lexie first attended Academic Support in 2014. Since then she has been a regular attendee, becoming a member of the centre’s Student Council and benefiting from one-to-one support through the Mentoring programme. Lexie has sometimes struggled with motivation in the past but recently, the centre team have seen her drive improve.

“**Into**University has helped me think about my future a lot. When I was younger I had no idea what I wanted to do, but since I started Mentoring I was able to explore things that I am interested in. With my mentor we decided to do baking at least once or twice because I mentioned I quite like baking. That was when I decided I either wanted to become a chef or something similar. **Into**University has given me the opportunity to explore things that I am interested in.”

Nate – Year 13, **Into**University Clacton-on-Sea

Nate first started coming to Secondary Academic Support, shortly after he moved to Clacton and was introduced to **Into**University by another student in his year at school. Since attending the centre, his confidence has improved greatly and he has made the most of all of the resources available to him to ensure that he is well-prepared for university.

“A few years ago I had to take a step back in Year 11, so I thought that going to a different school and the knock back in confidence was going to make things really difficult, but coming here has helped me with that transition both socially and academically. When it came to creating my UCAS application, I was one of the first to do it in my year because of **Into**University. They really helped me with researching my options, finding different types of universities and with writing my personal statement, which is why I got an unconditional offer from Anglia Ruskin University, which I’m really looking forward to.”



Tendai - age 22, **Into**University Nottingham West

Tendai first started attending Academic Support during her first year of A-Levels after finding out about it from friends who already attended. At the time, she was struggling academically and was uncertain about her chosen A-Levels and what she wanted to do in the future. She was assigned an academic mentor to help her with Chemistry A-Level and, since then, Tendai has gone on to graduate from the University of Birmingham and now works as a children’s social worker.

“**Into**University has helped me in so many ways. Academically, it helped me realise my potential and I was able to change my A-Levels to subjects that I was naturally good at and ended up achieving [the grades] BBC. The staff at **Into**University helped me to really perfect my personal statement for UCAS and also did mock interviews with me for my actual university interviews. I was able to do a wide variety of activities such as attend a meet and greet with the Editor-in-Chief for Vogue at one of the **Into**University centres in London. I also did a three-week paid internship with an investment bank in London as well as a one-week work experience at a magic circle law firm. After studying Sociology at A-Level, I’m able to recognise that **Into**University offered me a form of cultural and social capital that I wouldn’t have been able to acquire on my own and my views of the world, my ambitions and successes wouldn’t be the same.”



Spotlight

A legacy of generosity: the Queen’s transformative impact on charitable causes



The passing of the Queen has affected us all in one way or another. At IntoUniversity, we’ve been reflecting on her remarkable charitable legacy through The Queen’s Trust, and how it impacted the growth of our organisation.

We were deeply saddened by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose passing this year ends a remarkable and unprecedented 70 year reign. As we at IntoUniversity reflect on our 20 year anniversary, it is impossible to do so without also acknowledging the Queen’s legacy of charity and generosity, and how inextricably linked it is to our growth.

Throughout her life and reign, charity was an enduring focus for the Queen. Set up in 1977 on the occasion of the Queen’s Silver Jubilee, The Queen’s Trust, for example, has since gone on to make a transformative impact on many charitable causes. It is through the generosity of The Queen’s Trust that IntoUniversity was able to take a huge leap forward in serving young people in England and Scotland. The Queen’s Trust plaque can be seen at many of our centres around the country as a mark of the transformative role its funding had on the growth of our charity. We had the honour of meeting her in person in 2016 to thank her for this generous support (pictured).

Here are the amazing ways The Queen’s Trust has helped IntoUniversity throughout our 20 years as a charity:	
> 2013/14	Helped fund new centres in East Ham and Walworth
> 2014/15	Provided funding for our East Ham, Walworth, Leeds East, Oxford South East and Brighton centres
> 2015/16	Supported our growth through the funding of centres in Bristol South, Leeds South and Southampton, and helped us develop our fundraising team
> 2016/17	Funded centres in Islington, Liverpool and a third centre in Leeds, as well as funding core functions across HR and fundraising
> 2017/18	Provided funding for our Brent, North Kensington and Clacton centres, plus funded additional fundraising members and an Executive Assistant
> 2018/19	Contributed towards our growth in Scotland

“The Queen’s Trust plaque can be seen at many of our centres around the country as a mark of the transformative role its funding had on the growth of our charity.”

This legacy of charitable work is one of the many things we’ve been reflecting on since the Queen’s passing, and the enormous debt of gratitude we owe Her Majesty and everyone at The Queen’s Trust for their role in making IntoUniversity what it is today.

Our Co-Founder’s role comes full circle

Hugh Rayment-Pickard, Chief Strategy Officer, reflects on a new chapter.

As some of you will know, I started my involvement at IntoUniversity as a volunteer. So it seems rather fitting that I am now about to embark on a new chapter, and will once again be supporting the charity in a voluntary capacity.

It has been wonderful over the past 20 years, working together with Rachel Carr and a host of immensely

talented, creative and committed colleagues and trustees, to build an organisation that has already served over 170,000 young people.

I will now be joining the Professional Teaching Institute as Co-Director, but will remain very much involved in the IntoUniversity story, as I’ve agreed to serve in a pro bono role as a Strategic Advisor.

Thanks to everyone who has been part of my time at IntoUniversity so far - it’s been a wonderful 20 years.



We would love to hear your feedback about *aspire*. To get in touch or to find out more about IntoUniversity please visit our website www.intouniversity.org, drop Vicky an email at aspire@intouniversity.org or call us on 020 7243 0242.

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