

YOUNG APPLICANTS IN SCHOOLS SCHEME (YASS) S5 & S6 Peer-Led Session Activity Ideas

Aim: To provide S5 students with insight into the YASS programme from peers in S6 currently undertaking YASS modules. S6 pupils reflect and share their experiences to support S5s and their decisions to take part in YASS.

Guidance: Feel free to use any or all of these activities to get pupils sharing their experiences and asking questions. They can be used alongside the information session slides and notes. There are some key notes in activity 3 to help with questions that may come up through discussion.

If there are any further questions that you can't answer or issues, please do get in touch – Scotland-YASS@open.ac.uk

Activities:

1. Flashcard questions

- **Setup:** working either in pairs or groups of S5 and S6 pupils.
- **What you need:** print off and cut up flashcards for each group (see PowerPoint 'Peer Led Session Flashcards') or put up on screen for group discussion.
- **How it works:** S5(s) asks the S6(s) questions.
- **Questions:**
 - What do you like about YASS?
 - What has been a challenge and how have you overcome it?
 - What module are you studying?
 - What's been a benefit so far of taking part in YASS?
 - What's it like learning online?
 - How does YASS work?
- **Feedback:** Group feedback at the end, anything that has surprised the S5s? Anything that's worrying? Any common themes that keep coming up? Any other questions to ask.

2. Agree/Disagree line

- **Setup:** S6s at the front of the room, S5s sat down.
- **What you need:** draw an imaginary line across the floor with agree at one end and disagree at the other. Print off the statements (slide 2 of PowerPoint) or put up on screen.
- **How it works:** read out one statement at a time (or ask S5s to do it) and ask S6s to choose a point on the line that shows how much they agree/disagree with the statement. S5s can ask S6s to explain their position further.
- **Statements:**
 - I'm enjoying my YASS module.
 - I find my YASS module interesting.
 - I feel better prepared for uni, college or work because of YASS.
 - I find it easy to make time for YASS.
 - I chose my YASS module to help confirm what I want to study at uni/college.
 - My YASS module links to what I want to study at uni/college.
- **Feedback:** ask if any S5s want to come up with a statement to ask the S6s.

3. Overcoming challenges

- **Setup:** put S6s into groups with S5s (could be one S6 pupil with a group of 4 S5s or pairs depending on numbers).
- **What you need:** challenges from slide 3 of PowerPoint printed and cut out, big bits of paper or a whiteboard and post-it notes. Put each challenge in the centre of a piece of paper or in its own space on whiteboard.
- **How it works:** groups discuss each challenge and write out possible solutions on post-its and add them to the sheet/whiteboard. Give them 10/15 mins to work through them all.
- **Challenges:**
 - I can't decide which module to take.
 - How do I fit YASS in with my other studies and responsibilities (work, sports, music, volunteering etc.)?
 - Help! I can't get logged in!
 - I've got an assignment due for YASS on the same day as an exam in school.
- **Feedback:** feedback across whole group, picking out key solutions and ask if any S6s have direct experience of any of these.
- **Notes:** further detail to help with overcoming the challenges above.
 - The YASS website is a great place to start researching the programme and what's on offer – just search 'OU YASS Scotland' online.
 - Read through module descriptions on the OU website to get a feel for what's involved and whether it will be a good fit.
 - The Study Planners available through the module sites from StudentHome are a brilliant way to plan out learning.
 - The Student Support Teams, tutors and Computing Helpdesk are the best ways to get support for any problems you run into. You can also use the 'Help Centre' accessed from StudentHome to find answers to common issues or to work out who the best person to contact is. If you can't work it out, don't panic, just contact the YASS team.
 - Speak to the teacher/coordinator in school in the first instance if you're worried about keeping up with your studies or about a deadline/assessment. You can also speak to your tutor or advisers (their details should be on your StudentHome page), they might be able to put an extension in place for an assessment or be able to point you towards resources to help with study skills and time management. Whatever the problem, please do ask for help.