

## The Sutton Trust – New programme activity 2021



### *Pathways programmes*

The Sutton Trust has been successfully running a suite of Pathways to the Profession's programmes since [Pathways to Law](#) launched in 2006. The programme now includes Law, Medicine, Banking & Finance and Engineering. The Trust works closely with universities, corporate and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners to deliver a range of activities designed to enable low/middle- income 16-18-year olds to gain the skills, knowledge and experience they need to access top jobs.

More information on the existing programmes can be found on the [Sutton Trust website](#).

### *Pathways Online pilot*

The existing Pathways programmes recruit on a regional basis, which means that if students do not live in a reasonable commuting distance from our partner university, they are not eligible to apply. However, this is due to change with the pilot of Pathways Online.

In autumn 2021 the Sutton Trust will be launching a new online programme which is designed to be a digital alternative to the current Pathways to the Professions programmes. The aim of this pilot is to make the existing Pathways provision available to students across the UK. It also provides an opportunity to explore new sectors/industries that may not be as well suited to the existing Pathways delivery model.

The initial pilot will include at least law, banking & finance, with a view to build out into further sectors if possible. The Programme will follow the existing Pathways model, with a fixed cohort of students (between 50-75 students per industry strand in the first year). The core content will focus on the development of skills, knowledge and confidence. The majority of programme activity will take place in year 12, so that by the start of year 13 students are in a position to make an informed decision about their post 18 options.

### *Sutton Trust – Alumni*

To date the [Sutton Trust alumni activity](#) has focused on the development of a community, providing a range of opportunities for alumni to connect with one another and support the work of the Trust. As part of the Trust's 3 year strategy, we are growing our support for alumni in higher education to develop skills, knowledge and confidence to access the workplace. We will also be utilising the expertise and connections of our growing alumni community to participate as volunteers or speakers as part of this new post-18 activity.

### *Post 18 – Employability activity*

From autumn 2021, The Sutton Trust will be launching a new programme of activity specifically designed to equip the 'post-18' group of alumni with valuable employability skills and insight. Initially this will be targeted at alumni who have gone on to university, and will be designed to fit in with traditional timings of graduate schemes' recruitment activity. The core programme of activities will initially be digital with face to face opportunities being targeted at students looking to get into the most highly competitive professions, where the access gap persists. This will largely take the form of work placements in the first year of delivery.

The Trust will work with industry partners to create a range of face-to-face work experience placements for students looking to enter leading professions (eg, Law and Banking & Finance). Applications for these placements will be open to Sutton Trust Alumni. The Trust will lead on the allocation and logistics of these placements, so that students do not incur any financial costs to taking part.