



# Working Together for Access and Success in Higher Education: Teachers' and Advisers' Conference

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 9.30am to 3.30pm, University of Bradford



# About Go Higher West Yorkshire

Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) is a consortium of 13 Higher Education (HE) providers in West Yorkshire working collaboratively on access and success to HE. We aim to reduce inequity for under-represented groups and take an evidence-based approach to our work. You can find out about us and the work we do in this area by [visiting the GHWY website](#).

## Welcome

We are pleased that you will be joining us for GHWY's teachers' and advisers' conference aimed at anyone supporting informed choices in young people. This conference has been organised in collaboration with our 13 HE partners to showcase the diversity of HE and the wide range of HE options available in West Yorkshire.

### Getting here by public transport, bike, walking or by car

#### Parking information

We have been allocated Shearbridge Car Park for the conference which is P3 on the map (see p4). Student ambassadors will be available to support with getting you to Richmond Reception.

#### Roadworks

To help plan your journey into the city and to see the latest traffic news and road closures visit the [Bradford Future website](#). Please note, pedestrian access will be maintained at all times on the path nearest to the Richmond building entrance where staff will be waiting for you.

#### By public transport

There are two railway stations and a bus station within walking distance of the University campus. Bradford Interchange, which has a bus and train station, is 15 minutes away by foot. Forster Square railway station is about a 25 minute walk away.

It takes around 15 minutes to walk from the city centre, though it is partly uphill. From Bradford Interchange walk down the hill towards City Hall, then turn left past City Hall. From Forster Square station, walk past the "Fibres" sculpture onto Cheapside, then along Market Street towards City Hall. Walk through Centenary Square and City Park and continue towards the Alhambra Theatre. Turn right up Great Horton Road just before the Alhambra, and the University's City Campus is about 300

metres up this hill just beyond the College.

To get the bus to University of Bradford campus from Bradford Interchange, take the 576 Bradford-Halifax bus, which leaves at regular intervals and takes around 5 minutes.

If you're coming from further afield by bus or by train, you can plan your journey using the WY Metro journey planner.

#### By foot or bike

The University of Bradford Campus is a 15 minute walk or a 7 minute cycle away from the city centre. From Centenary Square and City Park, continue towards the Alhambra Theatre. Turn right up Great Horton Road just before the Alhambra. The Campus is 300 metres up this hill, just beyond Bradford College. There are showers and a secure cycle store. To access these facilities, visit the main reception in the Richmond Building on arrival.

#### By car

Bradford is connected to the national motorway network via the M62 and M606. If you are travelling from the south, east or west of Bradford, you will probably find it most convenient to use the M62 and M606. If you are arriving from the north-west you will probably use the A629/A650 via Skipton and Keighley. From the north-east it is most convenient to use the A1 or A19, and reach Bradford via A59 and then A658 south of Harrogate. Many road signs on major routes into the city have the route to the University indicated by a mortarboard symbol.



Where to report on the day

For those arriving by car

Please report to Shearbridge Car Park, which is P3 on the map below. Student ambassadors will be available to support you to Richmond Reception.

For those arriving by foot

Please report to Richmond building main entrance (see image on right) on Richmond Road (and not side entrance on Horton Road) where staff will be waiting for you.

If you arrive outside of the morning arrival window (as an attendee or speaker/ student panel who are joining us later in the day), please ask at Richmond reception for directions to Horton D.

Marketplace staff

Please report to Student Central and make your way to Level -2 and the Below One area where the stalls are located. If you access Student Central using the main entrance, you may find it helpful to ask for directions at J B Priestley Library reception. There is a lift available just around the corner from the stairs so do use these to ensure your safety as you will be carrying a banner stand or a tablecloth and resources etc. to set up your stall. To exit Student Central, make your way to Level 0.



Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi will be available on the day. Guests will need to text a code to a number and it will give you a username and password to log into eduroam. Printed copies of this will be available on the day. Note, we are not able to share this code in advance as it is for use on the day only.

Photography

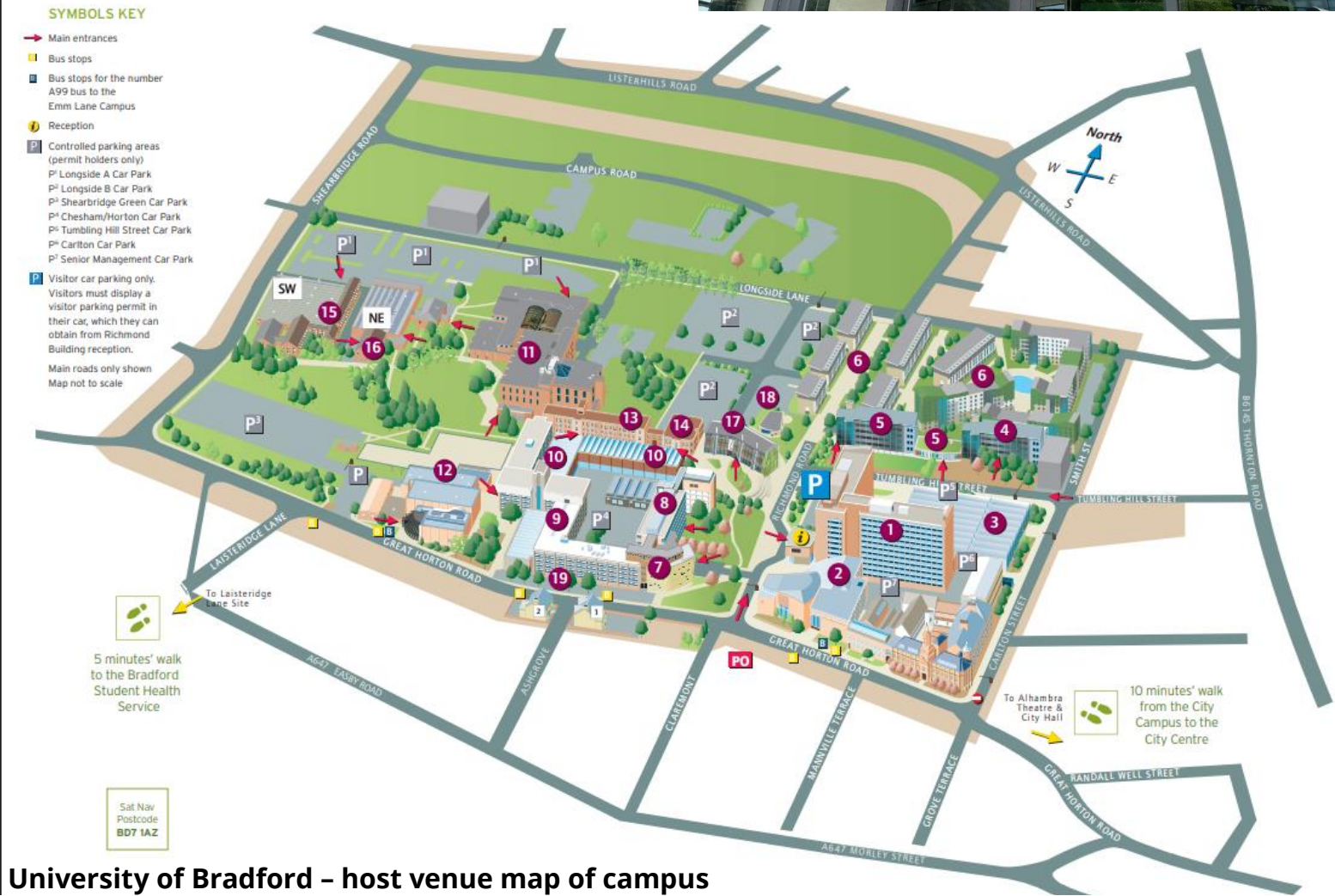
We will be taking photographs on the day of the conference. If you do not wish to have your photo taken, please make yourself known to the organiser upon arrival at the conference.

Accessibility

We do understand conferences can be overwhelming so there are pods/ booths in Richmond building you can use to take a bit of time out before you re-join the conference in Horton D.

Lifts

There are lifts available in Horton D and Student Central for those that need it. In Horton D, the Horton Barn Lecture Theatre and Foyer area is Level 01 (Basement Level). All other sessions will be on Level 0 (Ground Level) so select Basement (B) level or Ground (G/zero) level on lift.



University of Bradford – host venue map of campus

Programme (morning)

Time	Location	Session
09:30 to 09:55	Richmond atrium arrive, registration and networking in Horton D Wing	<b>Registration and networking (tea/coffee/pastries)</b>
09:55 to 10:00	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
10:00 to 10:10	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kirsty Lunn (Outreach and Recruitment Manager, University of Bradford) to cover the housekeeping and intro speakers for this part</li><li>Helen Sykes (Head of GHWY, Go Higher West Yorkshire), to cover about GHWY for 5 minutes</li></ul>
10:10 to 10:30	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	<b>Keynote – Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture</b> Rhiannon Hannon (Director of Creative Engagement and Participation, Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture) and Andra Chelcea (Cultural Learning Manager, Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture)
10:30 to 10:35	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
10:35 to 11:10	Breakout rooms, Horton	<b>Breakout session 1: Getting into Higher Education (HE) – a choice of:</b>
	Horton D0.23	<b>A – Thinking outside the HE timeline: Clearing and direct applications – how students can enter HE</b> Chelsea Redshaw (Outreach and Recruitment Officer, University of Bradford) and Felicity Crowley-Atkinson (Admissions Officer, University of Bradford)
	Horton D0.24	<b>B – Going Higher in West Yorkshire: Studying at an HE in Further Education or specialist institution</b> Sam Higgs (Uni Connect Outreach Officer, University Centre Leeds)
	Horton D0.26	<b>C – From free flow to structure: Changes to UCAS Personal Statements and guidance on use of AI</b> Helen Linyard (Deputy Head of Admissions, University of Leeds)

11:10 to 11:25	Horton D Wing	<b>Break</b>
11:25 to 11:30	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
11:30 to 12:10	Breakout rooms, Horton	<b>Attendee feed in – your chance to input into questions related to HE access and success</b> (You will be allocated to a group/room on the day)
	Horton D0.23	Group A Facilitator: Matt Elliott (Education Outreach Lead Officer (Yorkshire and the Humber and UK Nations), University of Leeds)
	Horton D0.26	Group B Facilitator: James Rew (Access and Participation Manager, Leeds Conservatoire)
12:10 to 12:15	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
12:15 to 12:55	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	<b>Student Panel: what I wish I'd known about HE</b> Session where students present and audience Q&A Chair: Ammarah Pandor (Access and Participation Lead, Leeds Trinity University)
12:55 to 13:00	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
13:00 to 14:00	Student Central	<b>Lunch, marketplace and networking</b>
14:00 to 14:05	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings



Programme (afternoon)

14:05 to 14:35	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	<b>Spotlight session on GHWY Race Equity Network</b> Dr Shames Maskeen (Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Leeds Trinity University)
14:35 to 14:40	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
14:40 to 15:15	Breakout rooms, Horton	<b>Breakout session 2: Access to and Support in HE for under-represented groups</b> – a choice of:
	Horton D0.23	<b>A – From Education Health Care Plans to Disabled Students Allowance? Supporting Disabled Students</b> Rob Caswell (Disability Service Manager, University of Bradford) and Charlotte Graves (Preparation for Adulthood Coach, Kirklees College)
	Horton D0.24	<b>B – Support at all stages of HE: Supporting Care-Experienced and Estranged Students</b> Rob Scott (Training Delivery Officer, Go Higher West Yorkshire) and Susan Darlington (Partnership Assistant, Go Higher West Yorkshire)
	Horton D0.26	<b>C – From a Network to West Yorkshire Boys’ Impact Hub: Supporting Males on Free School Meals</b> James Rew (Access and Participation Manager, Leeds Conservatoire)
15:15 to 15:20	n/a	Time to move between rooms
15:20 to 15:30	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	<b>Closing remarks</b> Sarah Thomas (Access & Widening Participation Manager, Leeds Beckett University and Chair of the GHWY Access and Participation Strategy Group)

Go Higher West Yorkshire - a partnership of 13 HE providers

Speaker bios and photos

Welcome and about Go Higher West Yorkshire



**Helen Sykes** is Head of Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) - a collaborative partnership of 13 Higher Education (HE) providers. Helen is also Co-Chair of the GHWY Care-Experienced

and Estranged Students Network, and an Independent Visitor in her own time. She is passionate about supporting people in West Yorkshire to be equipped to make informed decisions about HE.

Keynote Speakers: UK Bradford City of Culture



**Rhiannon Hannon** is the Director of Creative Engagement and Participation for Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture and is leading the participation programme with communities, our

Cultural Learning Programme and young people and has responsibility for Our Patch, our Cultural City of Sanctuary work and our widening access programme for people with Serious Mental Illness. She is passionate about widening participation to the arts and previous experience includes 13 years at Theatre Royal Wakefield as Associate Director: Participation, Theatre Director at Mind the Gap. Rhiannon is also a Theatre Director, Facilitator and Winston Churchill Fellow.

**Andra Chelcea** is Cultural Learning Manager at Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture.

**Morning breakout sessions** – back of lanyard will indicate your chosen/allocated session:

Thinking outside the Higher Education timeline: Clearing and direct applications – how students can enter HE

**Chelsea Redshaw** Chelsea Redshaw is Outreach and Recruitment Officer at University of Bradford. She is Co-Chair of GHWY Care-Experienced and Estranged Students Network that brings together staff from across GHWY’s partners to support care-experienced young people.

**Felicity Crowley-Atkinson** is Admissions Officer at University of Bradford. Having worked in the Higher Education (HE) industry for a number of years, Felicity is a primary source of advice and guidance for complex admissions issues, policies and procedures.

Going Higher in West Yorkshire: Studying at an Higher Education in Further Education or specialist institution

**Sam Higgs** has been working as an Outreach Officer with Go Higher West Yorkshire for nearly 2 years and before that was working for another Uni Connect partnership in Essex. She has an undergraduate degree in Language Studies and worked in a couple of different job sectors before returning to university to complete my PGCE in Secondary Education. Sam has continued to work in education, in an Education Centre for children and Primary Education, before moving into an Outreach Role in HE.

## From free flow to structure: changes to UCAS Personal Statements and guidance on use of AI



**Helen Linyard** has worked within HE for over 20 years, mainly within student recruitment. Her current responsibilities are in taught admissions for both undergraduate and postgraduate

applicants. She is proud to work for an institution that is committed to widening access to HE to students from a range of backgrounds.

**Attendee feed in – your chance to input into/discuss key questions related to Higher Education access and success**, back of your lanyard will indicate whether you are Group A or Group B:



Group A Facilitator bio: **Matt Elliott** first started working in the Education Outreach team at the University of Leeds in 2017. He works as an Education Outreach Lead Officer with responsibility

for managing their school relationships within Yorkshire and the Humber and the UK Nations. He is particularly passionate about supporting widening participation into Higher Education and to support students make an informed decision regarding Higher Education through our outreach activity.



Group B Facilitator bio: **James Rew** is the Access and Participation Manager at Leeds Conservatoire. With over 10 years' experience in the education sector, James has worked across all phases, from primary through to HE. James has a particular interest in supporting working-class learners to succeed in HE and is currently the chair of the West Yorkshire Boys' Impact Hub.

## GHWY Student Panel



Chair of Student Panel: **Ammarah Pandor** is the Access and Participation Lead at Leeds Trinity University with a background rooted in cross-sector collaboration focused on improving social mobility. As an award-winning school governor and GHWY Board member, she is committed to driving inclusive leadership and ensuring that every student has the support and resources to succeed.

## Spotlight session on supporting HE transition for Black Asian and Minoritised Ethnic Students



**Dr Shames Maskeen** is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology specialising in widening participation, intersectionality and cultural change. His research focusses on tackling racial inequities and the intersections of class, culture, religion and gender experienced by racialised minorities in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Dedicated to anti-racist leadership, Shames focusses on turning theory into action through applied research to create an equitable future for young people.

**Afternoon breakout session** - back of the lanyard will indicate your chosen/allocated session:

## From Education Health Care Plans to Disabled Students Allowance? Supporting Disabled Students

Having worked in Primary, Secondary, Further Education and Higher Education in disability support, **Rob Caswell** has a deep passion for supporting disabled students. It is his aim to ensure every disabled students' journey here at Bradford University is of the highest standard and that they are empowered to reach the positive outcomes and achieve the goals they want to achieve.

**Charlotte Glaves** is the Preparation for Adulthood Coach at Kirklees College. Charlotte works closely with EHCP learners and their parents/carers to support a smooth transition into adulthood. This includes delivering tailored interventions, travel training, and outreach support.

## Support at all stages of HE: Supporting Care-Experienced and Estranged Students

**Susan Darlington** has worked in various roles across HE for over a decade. She is currently GHWY Partnership Assistant.



**Rob Scott** is Training Delivery Officer for Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY), specialising in delivering the GHWY Care To Go Higher CPD-certified course.

## From a Network to West Yorkshire Boys' Impact Hub: Supporting Males on Free School Meals

Please see page 10 for James Rew's bio

## Closing remarks

**Sarah Thomas** is Access and Widening Participation Manager at Leeds Beckett University. She works with schools and colleges across the region to encourage students to aspire to Higher Education and provide support and guidance in their transition to HE. For the academic year 2024-25, she is Chair of the GHWY Access and Participation Strategy Group.





# GO HIGHER

WEST YORKSHIRE

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**Bradford College**

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**BRADFORD**

 **UNIVERSITY  
CENTRE**  
Calderdale College

*University of*  
**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Inspiring global professionals

 **KIRKLEES  
COLLEGE**

 **LEEDS  
CONSERVATOIRE**

 **UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

 **LEEDS  
ARTS  
UNIVERSITY**  
1846

 **LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY**

 **Leeds  
College of  
Building**

 **University  
Centre Leeds**

 **Leeds Trinity  
University**

 **University Centre**  
at the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group

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