

Personal Development at William Booth

What do we do for Into University at William Booth?

Into University is a UK-based charity that provides local learning centres to inspire and support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping them achieve their academic potential and pursue higher education. Into University plays a vital role in William Booth's personal development by supporting our children to think about their futures and the opportunities available through higher education, should they choose this route. Our children work with Into University from **year 4 through to year 6**. A key highlight for Year 6 students is their **FOCUS Week**, where they learn about university while exploring the **creative arts**. Throughout the week, they participate in drama workshops, create sock puppets, sing, and produce artwork in an art studio. A particularly exciting part of the experience is visiting the **University of Nottingham**, where they tour the campus and gain insight into student life. The week ends with a special **graduation ceremony**, celebrating everything they've learned and achieved.

Beyond the FOCUS Week, Into University continues to support Year 6 students in the summer term with workshops designed to help with the **transition** to secondary school. Year 4 and Year 5 students also receive workshops that introduce them to university and encourage them to aim high. By offering this ongoing support, Into University helps us develop the confidence and ambition to pursue our goals.



What is the impact?

The impact of Into University on our children has been incredibly positive, inspiring them to think about their futures while building confidence and ambition. The FOCUS Week in particular has been a huge success, giving children the opportunity to explore university life through creative arts, drama, and hands-on activities.

The programme's success was evident in the high turnout at the graduation ceremony, with 70% of families attending to celebrate their children's achievements. This overwhelming support highlights how much the programme means to both students and their families. Every single child—100%—said that they enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot, showing just how engaging and meaningful the week was for them.

Beyond just learning about university, the children developed essential skills such as teamwork, communication, and confidence. The visit to the University of Nottingham was particularly inspiring, helping them to picture themselves in higher education one day. Into University will continue to work with and support many of our children at **secondary school**. By making university feel accessible and exciting, Into University has left a lasting impact, ensuring that children feel motivated and supported in their aspirations.