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Dear Parent/Carers

University of East Anglia Year 8 – Make it Count Project

Your child has been invited to take part in the **University of East Anglia's Year 8 Make It Count project** following the success of the Year 7 programme.

The 'Make It Count Y8' project is an exciting opportunity run by the University of East Anglia allowing your young person to explore and develop their **debating skills**. Make It Count Y8 is part of a progressive programme giving your young person, who was involved in the Year 7 programme, an opportunity to **revisit their toolkit** and further develop the 'talk tactics' element which focuses on public speaking skills. The programme aims to **build confidence** and **resilience** so students feel better equipped to participate more readily in class and wider academic discussions/activities without the fear of failure or judgement.

The project will ...

- Take place **in school time**.
- It will be run over **4 x one hourly workshops** (1 per week).
- The Head of Year/Lead Teacher will ensure that they are **not missing the same lesson** each week and will **avoid taking your young person out of core subjects** where possible.

What will my young person be doing as part of the project?

Workshops

Through each workshop, your young person will participate in lots of activities **to develop** their speaking skills and **build their confidence and resilience**. The workshops have been carefully designed to enable your young person to feel valued so that they can share their thoughts and ideas in a safe, non-judgemental environment.

Evaluation

Our evaluation team will be working with the project's organisers to see whether the Make It Count Y8 project is meeting its aims. To do this, your **young person will be asked to complete some surveys and some of the work they complete as part of this project** (such as a reflection sheet) **will be analysed**. We won't be marking your young person's work or looking at individual responses, but instead all the information will be collected together and anonymised before we use it in any of our reports. We'll show our short Outreach data collection animation to your young person as part of the

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project. If you'd like to view the animation, it can be found at <https://outreach.uea.ac.uk/data-collection/>. If you wish to opt your young person out of the evaluation, **you will separately receive/may have already received** a parent/carer letter from your school which links you to the full data protection policy and explains how you can opt out by emailing outreach@uea.ac.uk.

How can you support your young person as they take part in the project?

As a parent or carer, you play an essential role in supporting your young person as they navigate their way along their learning journey.

It's important that the discussions your young person has when taking part in Make It Count are continued at home. Simple questions that you can ask are:

- Tell me one thing you took away from your Make It Count session today?
- Share with me an example of an activity you took part in today.
- What will you do differently in the next debate/discussion you have in school and why?

Any questions or concerns, please do contact me at kate.warnes@attrust.org.uk.

Kind regards.



Kate Warnes
Director of PSHEE & CEIAG