

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Our subscribing schools use My Super Curricular in a variety of ways, from structured programmes to optional student use. The site is used primarily for Sixth Form, some schools extend access to students from Year 8 onwards. Using the site with a large number of students with varied needs is complex and requires different approaches depending on the key stage and the school's aims.



Are you looking to provide your students with the flexibility to access resource suggestions at their own pace? Perhaps, you are interested in creating a programme that evolves with their development, fosters independent exploration of topics, sparks ideas for future progression, and nurtures a passion for the subject beyond the curriculum. The programme that progresses alongside the students, starting from supervised activity recommendations and leading to complete independent choice, becoming a regular part of their weekly school routine.

Here are our suggestions for effectively implementing My Super Curricular, along with examples of how our partner schools integrate the platform into their curriculum.

POST-16

Tutor time / Supervised study time

The majority of our subscribing schools use My Super Curricular as part of a tutor programme or supervised independent study time, using at least one of their tutor periods per week as 'Super Curricular Time'. Students are expected to be engaged in an activity of their choosing during this time. The tutor has primary responsibility for monitoring their progress using the Admin dashboard and creating groups. Tutors discuss saved and completed activities, written reflections and next steps.

Our top tips:

- Set up tutor groups using the Group function for easy access to specific groups of students.
- Access student profiles through the Admin dashboard to facilitate meaningful conversations with little preparation time as you have data on completed activities and reflections readily available. The site allows for more focused and impactful conversations.
- Set targets for a certain number of activities and reflections for each term.
- Use tutor time for activity search and for completion of saved activities such as virtual work experience, reading, MOOCs as well as writing reflections.
- Promote the site with parents to support use at home.
- Make My Super Curricular part of the school's familiar "language" and routines.
- Set high expectations, encouraging students to be aspirational in their activities and access wider opportunities.

YOUR AIMS

To inform your embedding strategy, consider your main objectives, such as:

- Provide students with more chances to work independently.
- Enhance your super curricular offerings by introducing a structured programme.
- Promote student engagement with super curricular activities and enhance monitoring.
- Boost aspiration and improve university application results.

Our data suggests using tutor time to be the most impactful way to embed the platform as it gives students **direction, time and space** to engage with the site and resources it offers. It also improves accountability as the students are aware that their progress is monitored but feel supported through what, for some, may seem like a daunting activity.

Targeted subject groups

Alternative options for Post 16 students involve schools that focus on super-curricular activities and preparing for progression through specialised subject groups. Students choose or are guided towards a pathway like Oxbridge, Medicine/Dentistry/Vet Sciences, Business & Finance, Allied Health, STEM, or Social Sciences. Within each group, a tutor assists in preparing students for their chosen future paths through the respective subjects.

Our top tips:

- Set up subject-specific groups using the Group function for easy access to specific groups of students.
- Access student profiles through the Admin dashboard to facilitate conversations and guide their next steps.
- Encourage students to share resources within subject groups and generate discussions.
- Set targets for a certain number of activities and reflections for each term.
- Promote the site with parents to support use at home.
- Encourage students to focus on specific topics and select resources to build on their chosen topics through different types of activities.

EPQ

Several schools use My Super Curricular for EPQ research. Using the site for this purpose, as part of the structured EPQ programme in school and under the guidance of their EPQ tutor, students begin to put together reflections which can then be used for application materials, supplementing this post-EPQ with continued access to develop key themes.

Our top tips:

- Set up EPQ supervisor groups using the Group function for easy access to specific groups of students.
- Access student profiles through the Admin dashboard to check on students' progress and their notes.
- Encourage students to look at wider resources to inform their topics.
- Use the student account as a research and referencing log.
- Post EPQ completion, encourage continued use of the platform to support the university application.
- Encourage students to consider using their EPQ research as a springboard for relevant academic competitions.

Supporting Year 13 students

My Super Curricular is used to support those students who have gained the necessary qualifications to apply for university in year 12 and schools are looking for supplementary activities to enhance their final year curriculum and continue to develop skills, knowledge and understanding as well as prepare them for higher education.

Our top tips:

- Promote the link between super curricular activities and employability and higher education skills.
- Encourage focusing on CV enhancement through work experience, volunteering, MOOCs etc.



HPQ

Key Stage 4 students enrolled on HPQ courses utilise varied subject activities on the site through a structured and taught HPQ programme.

"We use My Super Curricular as part of our raising aspirations and tutor programme. All Year 12 students access the My Super Curricular platform for one hour each week. The activities that the website offers are perfect for self-regulated learning within a tutor time setting, allowing staff to interact with students on an individual basis. Students work on a particular activity or utilise the platform to plan and carry out a programme of exploration through a variety of media. Students then complete a reflection log on each resource they have used. These reflections provide content for their personal statement and/or interview performance."

Head of Sixth Form, Dixons Allerton Academy

KEY STAGE 4

Targeting high-achieving students

Some of our partner schools target high-achieving students who are likely to apply to competitive courses in the future and who would benefit from the challenge of engaging with higher-level material. It tends to be used in a more structured, teacher-supported way to encourage subject understanding and development.

Our top tips:

- Provide teacher supervision to ensure students access materials appropriate to their needs and support them in building reflective skills and developing analytical skills. This can be done through specific mentors who support gifted, talented or able students or through the general tutor periods but not as often as seen with Post-16 students.
- Encourage students to use their chosen super curricular activities to inform their A level / BTEC /IB choices.
- Promote the site with parents to support use at home, particularly over the summer before Sixth Form.

KEY STAGE 3

We have a limited number of schools that use the site throughout the school at Key Stage 3, tutors have a more involved role in the selection of activities linking with themes in tutor programmes, PSHCE or focus weeks. Reflections are completed together with direction from teaching staff and the primary aim is to raise awareness and build reflective skills through materials that present different learning styles and are outside of the normal curriculum routine, preparing students for the more independent use of the site in Key Stages 4 and 5.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Aim to create regular, structured access with tutor support and a degree of accountability appropriate to the Key Stage.
- Utilise that Admin dashboard with several admins and staff members to monitor usage.
- Take advantage of the live and recorded support sessions from My Super Curricular staff to inject further enthusiasm, engagement and new ideas.
- Get parents involved to support the use of My Super Curricular at home. Arrange a parent webinar with us.
- Engage with our 'check-in' emails to request materials, activities or suggestions for specialist groups or to give suggestions on how we can support your aims.

Book a free webinar with us for your student groups:

- **My Super Curricular student launch** - a session to introduce students to the platform.
- **Personal statement webinar** - a session on how to write meaningful reflections on completed activities and implement them into a personal statement.
- **Parent webinar** - a session for parents on the benefit of super curricular activities and how to help their child make the most of My Super Curricular.
- **1-to-1 subject clinic** (bookable by individual students) - a 15-minute session to help students progress their super curricular exploration.

