The Art of surviving and thriving; a framework for mature learners.
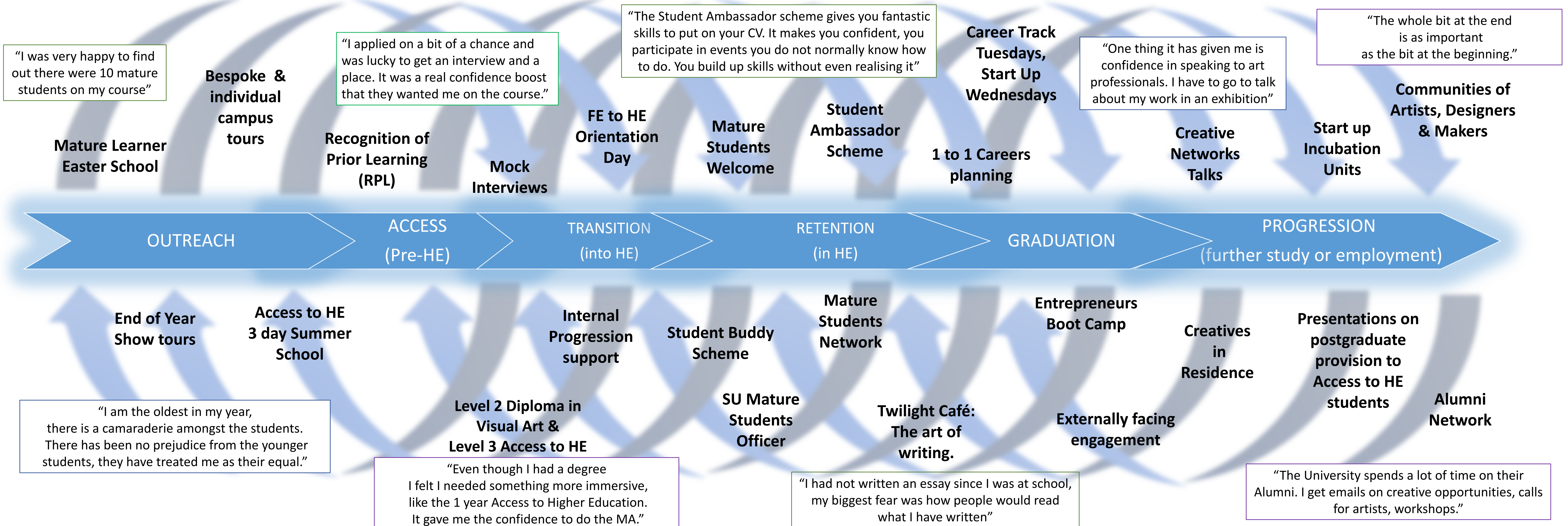
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LEEDS ARTS UNIVERSITY 1846

"I was very happy to find out there were 10 mature students on my course"

"I applied on a bit of a chance and was lucky to get an interview and a place. It was a real confidence boost that they wanted me on the course."

"The Student Ambassador scheme gives you fantastic skills to put on your CV. It makes you confident, you participate in events you do not normally know how to do. You build up skills without even realising it"

"One thing it has given me is confidence in speaking to art professionals. I have to go to talk about my work in an exhibition"

"The whole bit at the end is as important as the bit at the beginning."

Bespoke & individual campus tours

Career Track Tuesdays, Start Up Wednesdays

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

FE to HE Orientation Day

Mature Students Welcome

Student Ambassador Scheme

Communities of Artists, Designers & Makers

Mature Learner Easter School

Mock Interviews

1 to 1 Careers planning

Creative Networks Talks

Start up Incubation Units

OUTREACH	ACCESS (Pre-HE)	TRANSITION (into HE)	RETENTION (in HE)	GRADUATION	PROGRESSION (further study or employment)

End of Year Show tours

Access to HE 3 day Summer School

Internal Progression support

Student Buddy Scheme

Mature Students Network

Entrepreneurs Boot Camp

Creatives in Residence

Presentations on postgraduate provision to Access to HE students

Alumni Network

"I am the oldest in my year, there is a camaraderie amongst the students. There has been no prejudice from the younger students, they have treated me as their equal."

Level 2 Diploma in Visual Art & Level 3 Access to HE

SU Mature Students Officer

Twilight Café: The art of writing.

Externally facing engagement

"Even though I had a degree I felt I needed something more immersive, like the 1 year Access to Higher Education. It gave me the confidence to do the MA."

"I had not written an essay since I was at school, my biggest fear was how people would read what I have written"

"The University spends a lot of time on their Alumni. I get emails on creative opportunities, calls for artists, workshops."

- Broadhead's (2012; 2018) research with mature students from diverse backgrounds and 'unconventional educational histories' argues for a community of mature students to be created that increase feelings of support and belonging within the Arts University.

- Feedback from the National Student Survey indicated that mature students were less likely to be happy with the Students Union and were more likely to be critical of the organisation and management of courses.

- In response to these indicators, interventions were designed to support the academic, socialisation and participatory aspects of the curriculum so that mature students are able to succeed and progress.

- The framework spans the student lifecycle from level 2 (pre-Access to HE Diploma) to level seven and beyond.

- Key to the success of these practical interventions is that they are cross-institutional strategies.

- Activities undertaken by the Progression team; the Academic Support team; the Careers, Enterprise and Employment team and the Student Union 'dovetail' together to ensure students are supported throughout their educational journeys.

- These interventions can be used in other institutions; however they have been fine-tuned to fit the particular context of art and design.

- Students are introduced to art and design pedagogical approaches; they are also socialised into various communities of artistic practice.

- The participation of mature students in the student union is a new focus that is now being developed.

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