NextLevel: Academic Success through Community and Belonging
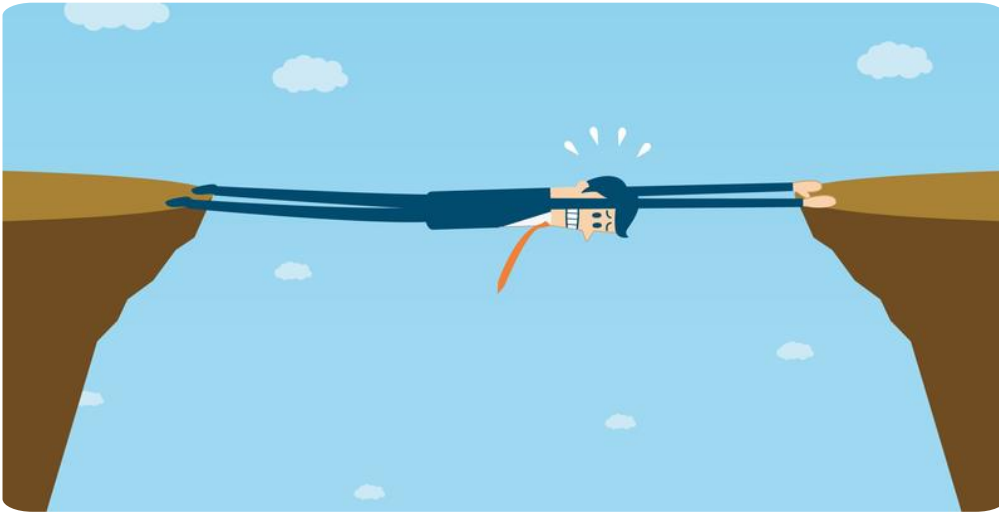
Jenny Spinks and Jules Mundair

SHIFT 2024

Academic Support Team

UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

NextLevel:

Why more resources?

New entrants to the university

Failure rate at the end of year 1 (2017/18)

- BTEC qualifications **21%**
- Mixed qualifications (BTEC/AS/A Level) **13%**
- Level 4/5 (direct entry **12%**
- AS/A Level qualifications **7%**

Figures obtained from PAS13 – Tariff analysis report for 2017/18 students
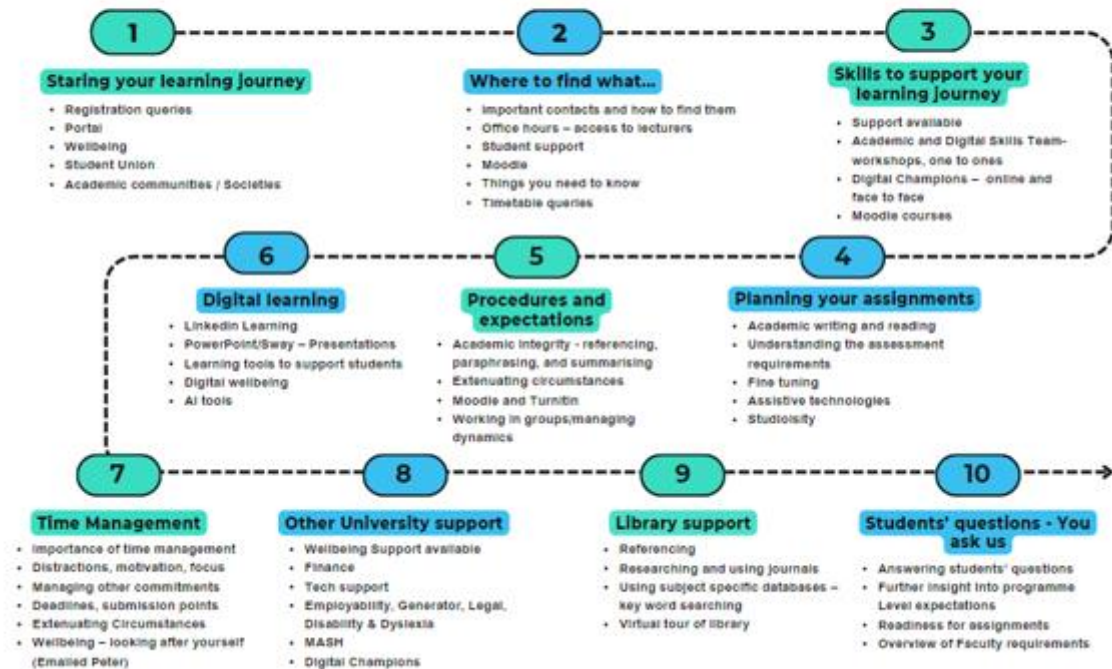
Connecting Students

- Within groups - peers
- University Societies
- Staff
- Support Services
- Wellbeing

Social dimensions of learning

Normalising challenges	Building connections
Active partnerships	Sense of self-efficacy
Sense of belonging	Achieving a sense of ownership

Your NextLevel in 10 steps

1 Staring your learning journey
- Registration queries
- Portal
- Wellbeing
- Student Union
- Academic communities / Societies

2 Where to find what…
- Important contacts and how to find them
- Office hours – access to lecturers
- Student support
- Moodle
- Things you need to know
- Timetable queries

3 Skills to support your learning journey
- Support available
- Academic and Digital Skills Team- workshops, one to ones
- Digital Champions – online and face to face
- Moodle courses

6 Digital learning
- Linkedin Learning
- PowerPoint/Sway – Presentations
- Learning tools to support students
- Digital wellbeing
- AI tools

5 Procedures and expectations
- Academic integrity - referencing, paraphrasing, and summarising
- Extenuating circumstances
- Moodle and Turnitin
- Working in groups/managing dynamics

4 Planning your assignments
- Academic writing and reading
- Understanding the assessment requirements
- Fine tuning
- Assistive technologies
- Studiosity

7 Time Management
- Importance of time management
- Distractions, motivation, focus
- Managing other commitments
- Deadlines, submission points
- Extenuating Circumstances
- Wellbeing – looking after yourself (Emailed Peter)

8 Other University support
- Wellbeing Support available
- Finance
- Tech support
- Employability, Generator, Legal, Disability & Dyslexia
- MASH
- Digital Champions

9 Library support
- Referencing
- Researching and using journals
- Using subject specific databases – key word searching
- Virtual tour of library

10 Students' questions - You ask us
- Answering students' questions
- Further insight into programme Level expectations
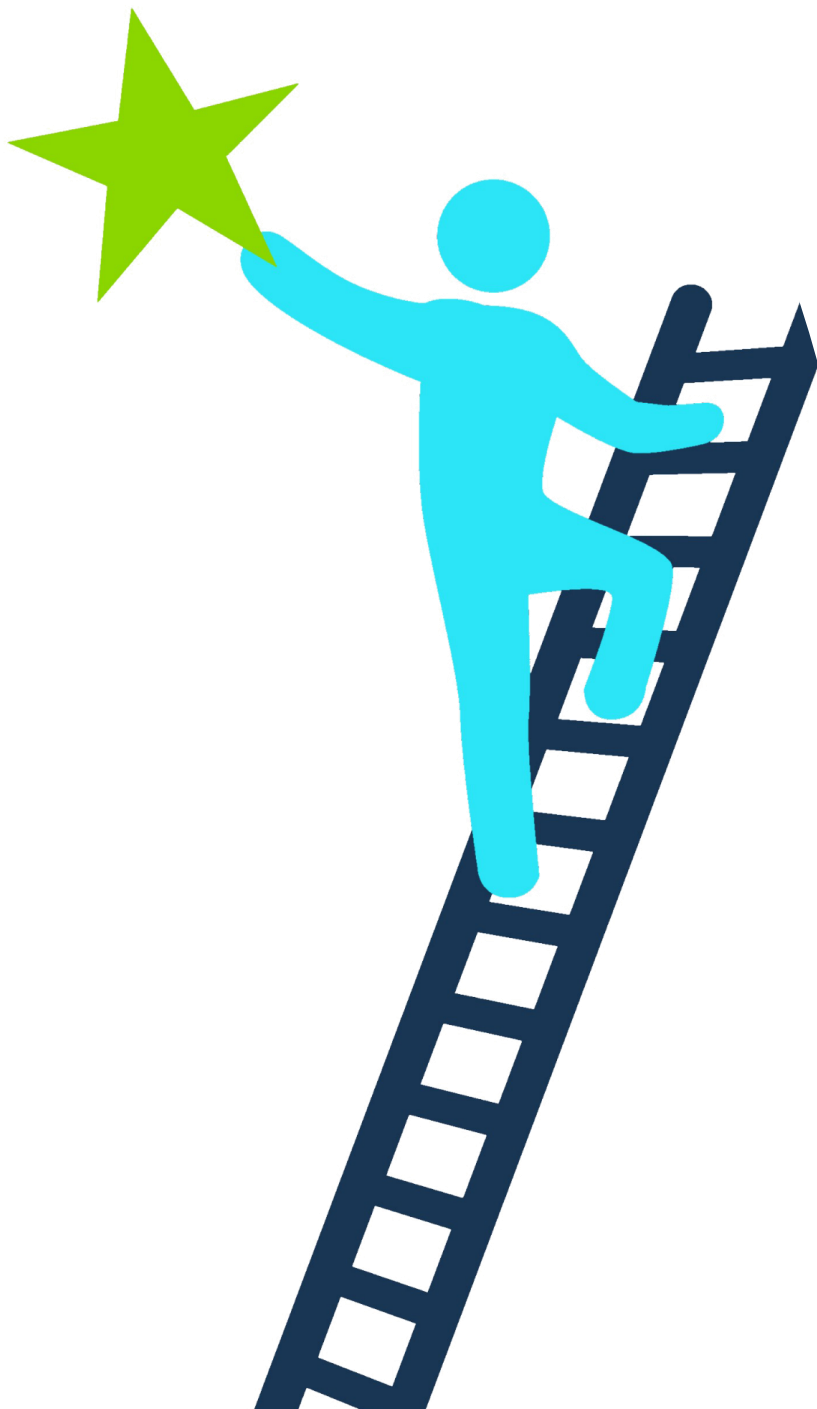- Readiness for assignments
- Overview of Faculty requirements

Building connections and belonging

- Interaction and groupwork within sessions

- Informal connections

- Supporting and valuing different forms of engagement

NextLevel and Belonging

- Tett et al (2017), found by building positive relationships between staff and peers, transition to HE can be successfully managed.

- Kenney (2023) recognises the importance of belongingness, its impact including on academic success to graduation rates, overall.

Cultivating a sense of belonging In NextLevel

By cultivating a community within our offer, as a team we can boost a sense of belonging in students.

Creating campus-wide initiatives and devoting more resources to student support.

Best Practice for Creating a Sense of Belonging

- Communication

- Engagement

- Retention

- Success

SHIFT 2024 - NextLevel: Academic Success through Community and Belonging

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