

**University of  
Northampton**

# **Changemaker Student Award.**

**Empowering you to make  
a difference.**





# Welcome to the Changemaker Student Award.

Welcome to the University of Northampton's Changemaker Student Award, the award that recognises that change is powered by people.

This unique program recognises, supports and celebrates the empowerment of school children in making innovative and positive change in their school community and beyond.

The award follows a structured yet flexible pathway for groups to plan, develop, initiate and support positive change within their community. Additionally the award offers the opportunity to develop and share new skills, with an emphasis on empathy, to become an advocate for change.

## **The Changemaker Student Award can provide your group with:**

- an opportunity for children to develop new skills
- the means to create and strengthen links with your local community
- an opportunity for your children to have an active voice in your school community
- recognition and publicity

Please watch our short [animation](#) to help your students to understand.

## Become a Changemaker.

The University of Northampton is an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, the first in the UK. As a Changemaker Campus we are committed to creating positive social change and working towards finding solutions to society's problems.

## What is a Changemaker?

Changemakers are people that act responsibly and with empathy, are resourceful and innovative, work collaboratively and are true to their personal values.

Being a Changemaker is about being socially innovative, exploring what you are passionate about, identifying change you would like to see and having a positive impact on others. Most importantly it is about embracing this ethos in everything you do.

**The University of Northampton are developing Changemakers of the future who are committed to:**

Doing the right thing  
In the right way  
With the right people  
For the right reasons.

## The Changemaker Commitments.

The University is committed to effecting positive change through four strategic Changemaker Commitments. These commitments are driving social engagement for the University through the following themes:

- Education
- Health and Wellbeing
- Heritage and Culture
- Business and Enterprise

By taking part in the Changemaker Student Award you are contributing to the success of these commitments. The four themes may also provide a structure for your Changemaker Team to explore project ideas.



## How does the Changemaker Student Award work?

Each Changemaker Student Award project will be developed by a group of children who have volunteered to be part of the award, fuelled by their desire to make a positive change.

The award can be started at any time as long as it is completed during one school year. There is no limit to the number of Changemaker Teams a school can have at any one time.

### Creating the Changemaker Team.

At the heart of the Changemaker Student Award is an individual's desire to create change. It is not designed to be picked up as a project by a predefined group, for example the student council. The importance is that each child is in the group as they have identified that they want to be a Changemaker.

The first step of the process is a school assembly, delivered by one of the University of Northampton's Changemaker Ambassadors, to explain the award and what being a Changemaker means. The purpose of this assembly is for the children to identify that the Changemaker Student Award is something that they would like to take part in.

Following the assembly, it is the school's responsibility to manage the process of forming the Changemaker Team from children who have expressed an interest. A Changemaker Ambassador can help with this process if required.

### Defining the Changemaker project.

Once your Changemaker Team is formed a Changemaker Ambassador will deliver an interactive workshop with the group to explore project ideas and possible solutions. At the end of this workshop your team will have a focus for their award project to take forward.

This project will be focused on one of the following:

- Creating a positive change for the school community, e.g. for an individual child or for the whole school
- Creating a positive change for the school's local community, e.g. within a neighbouring park or for a neighbouring community group
- Creating a positive change in the wider community, e.g. for a national charity or a country-wide community organisation

All Changemaker Student Award projects need to be underpinned by the following values:

- Working in collaboration
- Taking ownership and accepting responsibility
- Practicing empathy
- Embracing the need for positive change
- Thinking innovatively and creatively

### Documenting the Changemaker project.

One of the main elements of the award is the Changemaker Team documenting their process. This will evidence every stage that they have gone through from defining their problem to evaluating the project.

It is really important for the University Award Team to be able to see what has happened throughout the project; the conversations, the research, the decisions and the activities.

There is no limitation on how this documentation can be presented so the Changemaker Team can choose to document their process in any way, e.g. photographs, videos or written accounts. They should also include any materials they naturally produce through the project e.g. meeting minutes, posters, blogs, interviews etc.

### Assessing the Changemaker project.

When the Changemaker Team decide that their project has been completed a member of the University Award Team will visit to assess the activities. Assessment will consist of an informal presentation by the Changemaker Team followed by questions and a review of the documentation.

**During the assessment the Changemaker Team will need to cover the following questions:**

- What did you do for your project? ■ Do you have plans to carry on the project?
- Why did you choose this project? ■ What went well?
- Who benefited from your project? ■ How could it have been better?

### How to get started.

Simply email [schoolsengagement@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsengagement@northampton.ac.uk) to register your interest in the award.

Once you have registered your interest a member of the University Award Team will contact you.

**For further information please contact:**

[schoolsengagement@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsengagement@northampton.ac.uk)

