

Universities in 2017 are all striving to carve out an identity, strategy and culture that sets them apart. For the majority it takes both a strategic vision and its focused implementation to create something unique. Nottingham Trent University has both of these attributes in abundance, combining bold ambition with the hard work and commitment required to turn vision into reality.

Most striking is the extent to which evidence-based strategies for continual improvement are embedded across the institution, demonstrated particularly clearly in its pioneering use of learning analytics. This data-led approach is always tempered with the application of academic expertise, however, and a focus on providing higher education that transforms the lives of its large and diverse student body. A stellar performer in teaching and learning, Nottingham Trent also has an impressive record in access and outreach, with 30,000 school pupils taking part in targeted activities each year, and 25 per cent of its 21,000 undergraduates coming from homes with annual incomes of £15,000 or less.

Working with young people from underprivileged backgrounds and encouraging them to continue into higher education comes with special responsibilities, and Nottingham Trent is fulfilling those commitments with aplomb. It provides further education courses to more than 1,000 students a year, about a third of whom progress to degree-level study.

Its adoption and development of learning analytics help to drive engagement and support students who get into difficulties while also contributing to high student satisfaction and continuation rates. With clarity of vision and a wholehearted commitment to its mission, Nottingham Trent is forging a unique and truly transformative path.