

**HIGHLYSPRUNG**  
THEATRE THAT MOVES



**ACCELERATE**

**PROJECT REPORT**

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# ACCELERATE

The Youth Energy Summit



The **Youth Energy Summit** is a powerful partnership between Highly Sprung Performance, the University of Warwick's Institute of Engagement, Sustainability West Midlands, Coventry's Strategic Energy Partnership, and energy company E.ON. Focusing on the energy crisis, The Summit provides a platform to amplify the voices of young people and encourages them to explore solutions to the pressing challenges of our global energy crisis.

The Summit will involve interactive discussions, workshops, and presentations from keynote speakers, and will facilitate space to share ideas, knowledge, and innovate solutions. Experts and professionals in the field of energy and innovation will deliver workshops, shedding light on the current state of the crisis, potential consequences, and the urgency for sustainable solutions.

There will be workshops from Highly Sprung artists delivering arts led and physical theatre techniques to give young participants the opportunity to understand renewable energy technologies, energy conservation strategies, and policy advocacy. Excitingly the Summit includes a performance of Highly Sprung's new professional aerial and physical theatre show, Accelerate, which interrogates the energy crisis and our dependency on fossil fuels.

# ACCELERATE

The Youth Energy Summit

On the 18th & 19th November 2024, Highly Sprung Performance hosted the Youth Energy Summit at the Coventry Building Society Arena (CBS). Here, we welcomed **270 students aged 8-17 years of age** to learn more about how to save energy through **showing them the benefits of renewable resources**.

## How did we do this?

1. Welcome Speeches from members of the Young Producers Collective
2. Keynote / Panel Guest Speakers
3. 'Highly Sprung', 'Acting on Climate', 'Utopia/Dystopia', 'Design & Manufacturing' and 'WMG & Sustainability' workshops
4. Stalls with visual and physical demonstrations
5. Accelerate: The Performance
6. The live Illustrator



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13 SCHOOLS

270 STUDENTS

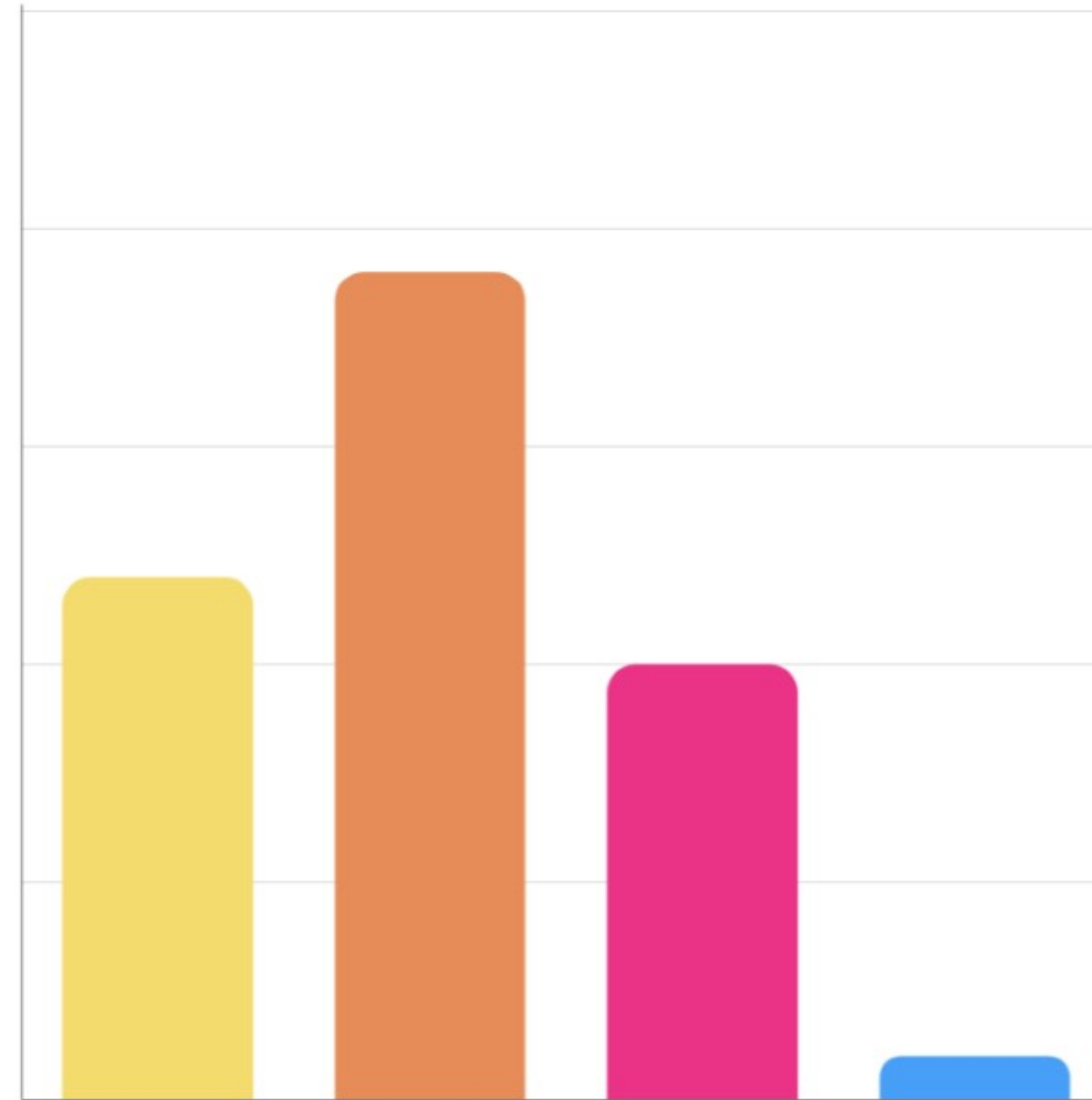
8-17 YEARS OF AGE

26.4% of students who attended are eligible for free school meals



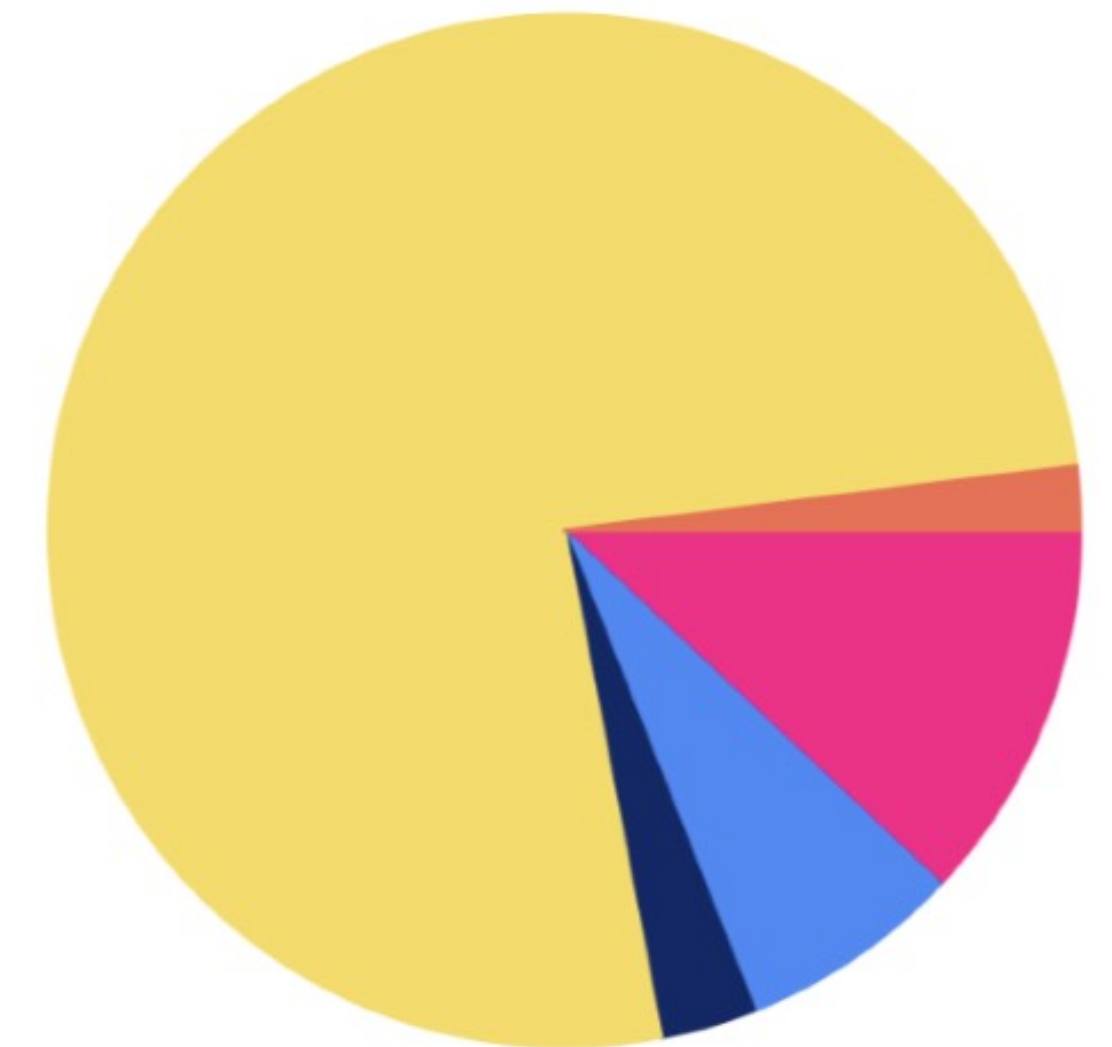
Eligible Non-eligible

Students' Ages



<11 11-13 14-16 17

Represented Ethnicities



Asian/Asian British  
Black/African/Carribbean British  
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups  
White  
Other ethnic groups

# Where are the schools who attended from?

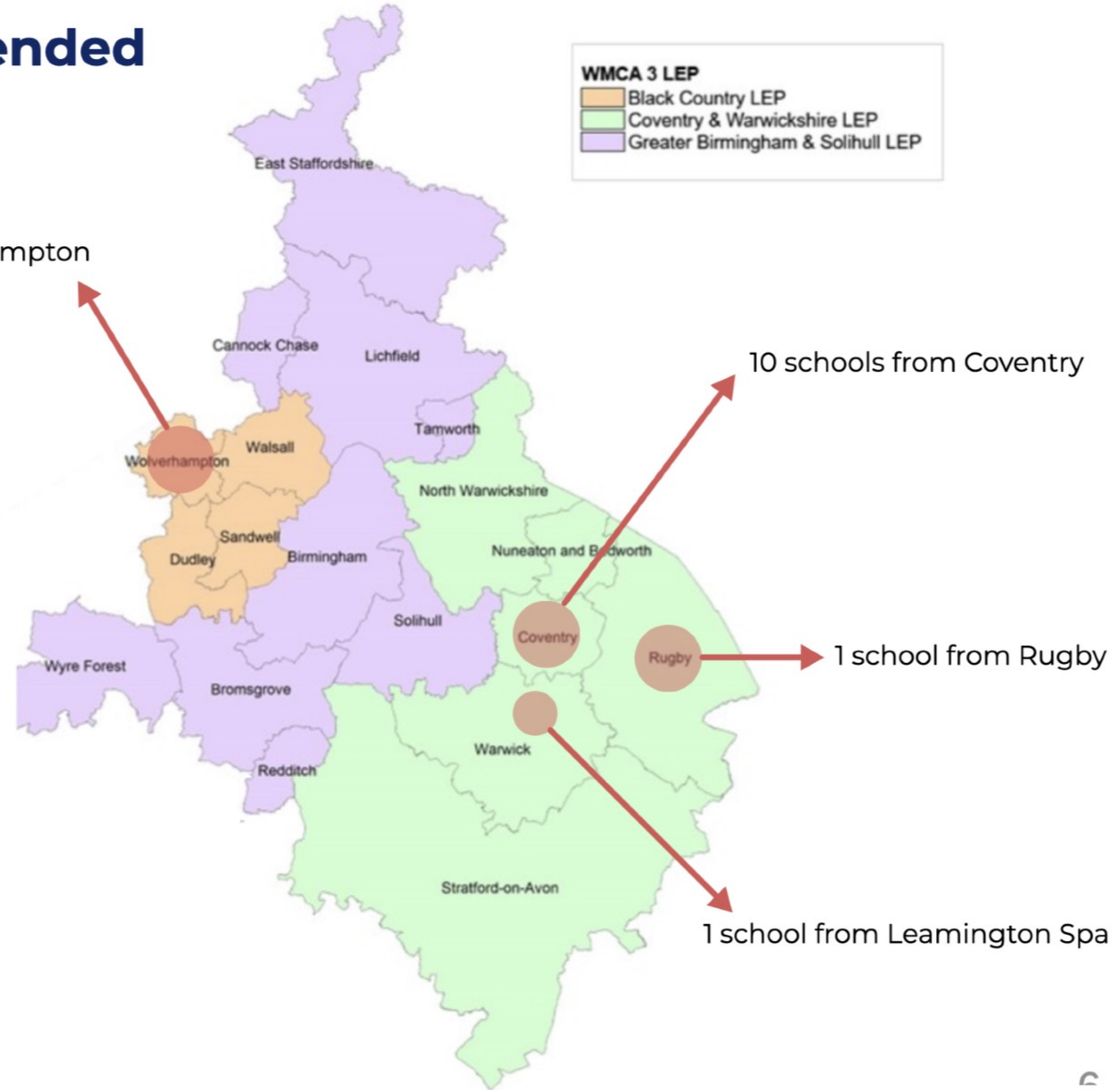


1 school from Wolverhampton

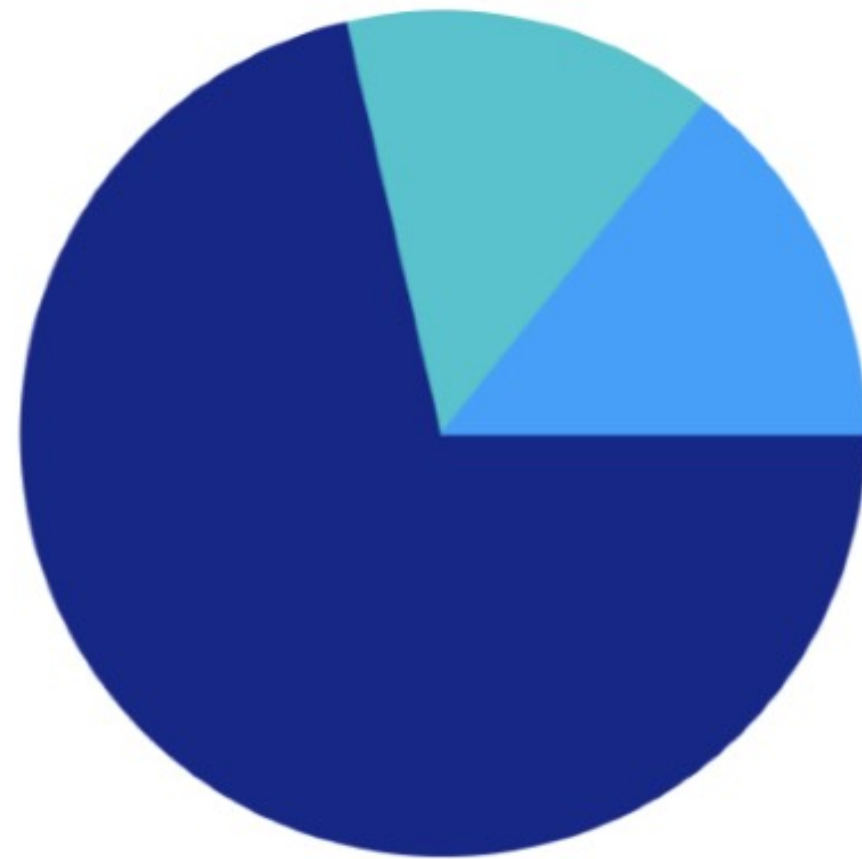
10 schools from Coventry

1 school from Rugby

1 school from Leamington Spa



## How did schools travel to the Summit? (%)

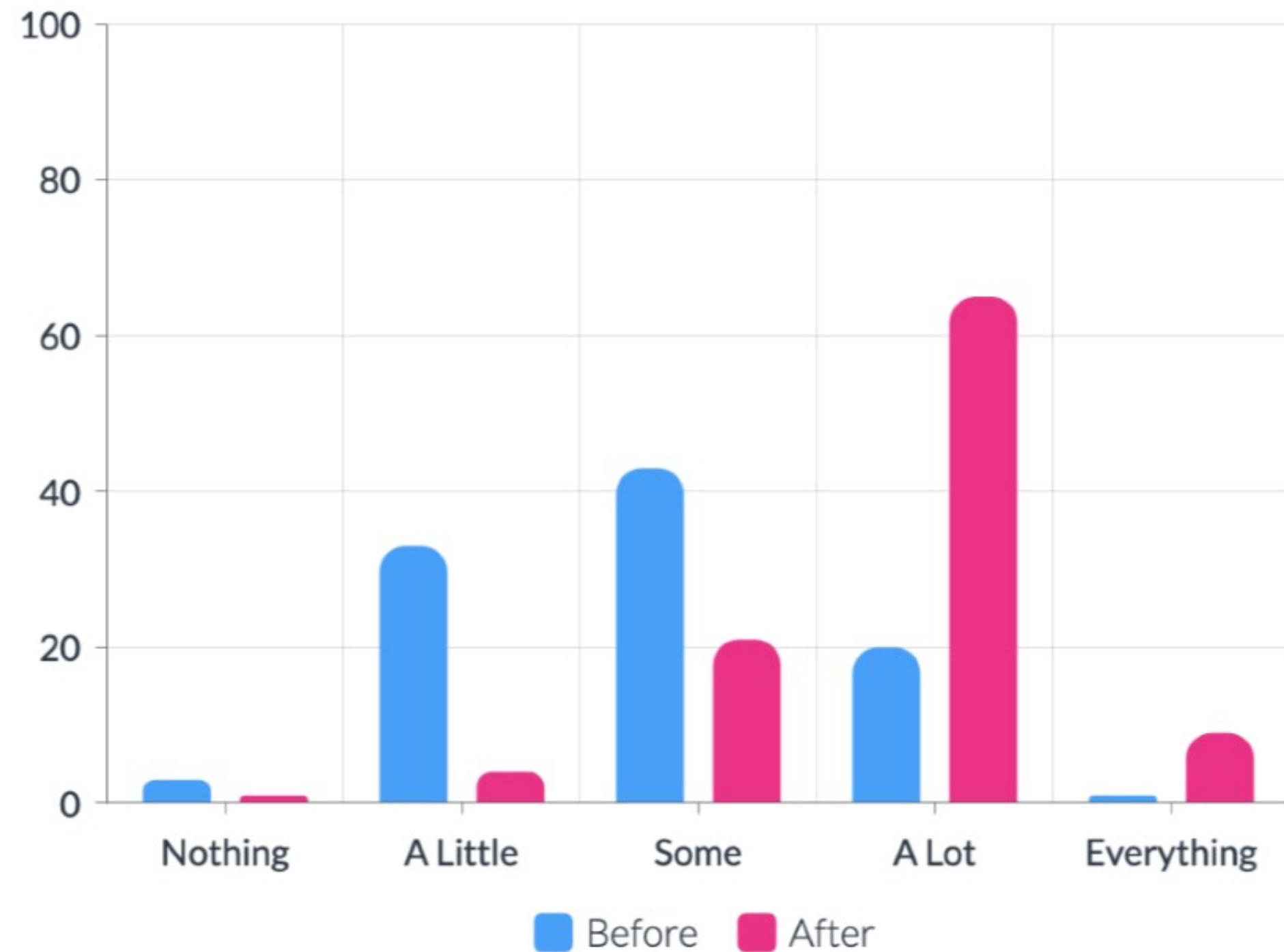


# What did the young people think of the Summit?



75% of the responders gave the Summit 5 stars!  
The lowest star received was 3 stars at just 3%.

## How much do you know about energy before and after the event? (%)



[76 responses]



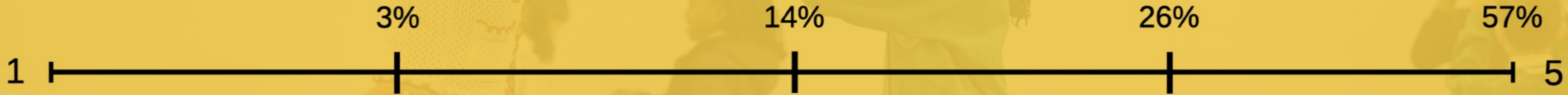
**66.7% of responses indicate that Accelerate: The Performance was their favorite part of the day. The other 33.3% accounts for:**

- Stalls.
- Workshops (with particular mention of the Highly Sprung workshops).
- Keynotes/Panel Speakers.
- The people running the event.
- Learning.
- "Everything"

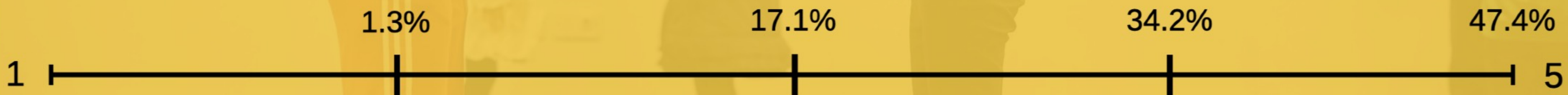
# 76 responses to the 1 - 5 scale questions:



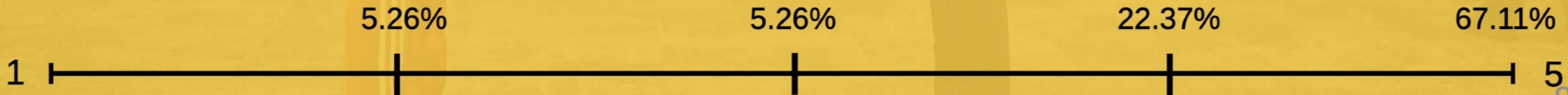
I feel energy is an important issue that will affect my future.



The Accelerate Youth Energy Summit felt like somewhere I could have my voice heard.



The Accelerate Youth Energy Summit gave me a chance to learn something new.



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## The Youth Energy Summit

THE INCLUSIVE  
COMMUNITIES FUND

Funded by  
UK Government

Commonwealth Games  
Legacy Fund

FUNDED BY

West Midlands  
Combined Authority

england

WARWICK

PARTNERS

Leeds City Council

e-on

sustainability  
west midlands

WARWICK

# ACCELERATE

## Young Producers Collective



**"I want to have fun and feel proud with other people."**  
- Gayathiri

# YPC Pre-Summit

**When asked what they want most out of this project in their first meeting, the top 2 answers were:**

- To gain confidence
- To feel less anxious

**100%** of YPC have been involved in the arts pre-project

- GCSE Drama / Workshops
- Highly Sprung (Youth) / Physical Fellowship / other drama clubs
- Play musical instruments
- Dance
- Art in school

**From the beginning, our YPC were ready to complete this experience with resilience and a belief in their abilities!**

"Dear past me,  
You became less anxious and made new friends. You're so much better at drama now, thank you for not giving up :)"

# YPC Post-Summit

Key: ● before ● after

I know what a producer is...



I am confident...



I work well with others...



I am creative...



# What did the YPC think of the project?

ONCE IN A LIFETIME  
NERVEWRACKING  
EXHILERATING  
INTERACTIVE  
MAKING FRIENDS  
BUSY  
NERVOUS  
EXHAUSTING  
EDUCATIONAL  
COLLABORATION  
TRUSTED OTHERS

EXHILERATING  
CONFIDENT  
STRESSFUL  
INSPIRING  
TESTING  
PROUD  
FUN  
SOCIAL  
IMPORTANT  
WORKSHOPS  
POWERFUL / EMPOW

"I loved expressing our opinions by designing everything."

Sarah - Design Presentation

The project

"It was really fun and gave us good insight into the creative process."

Mark - Creating Accelerate the Performance

"He talked about E.ON and careers; I made notes."

Ben Tuck

Planning sessions with Colleen & Sarah Rabone

"Important for knowing what we had to do." / Fun, Entertaining, Interactive

Phil Jemmett

Megan Owen

"I loved being able to see all the fun he has at work everyday and how creative he is."

"She was very inspiring."

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The Tour

# ACCELERATE: The Performance

**Exposing the flaws of our relationship with energy, Accelerate from Highly Sprung is a daring physical spectacle. Combining dark humour, bold movement, aerial performance and conveyor belt dance.**

The planet is fighting back and it's getting messy, with the 'dirty' energy that fuels us running out of steam. Accelerate explores how climate change is directly affecting the world's fuel supply and energy production, as well as impacting the physical resilience of energy infrastructures and ultimately our mental health, as a result of fuel poverty.

Drawing on years of experience creating environmentally charged spectacle work, Highly Sprung continue to develop new ways to tell compelling stories and inspire action around climate change.

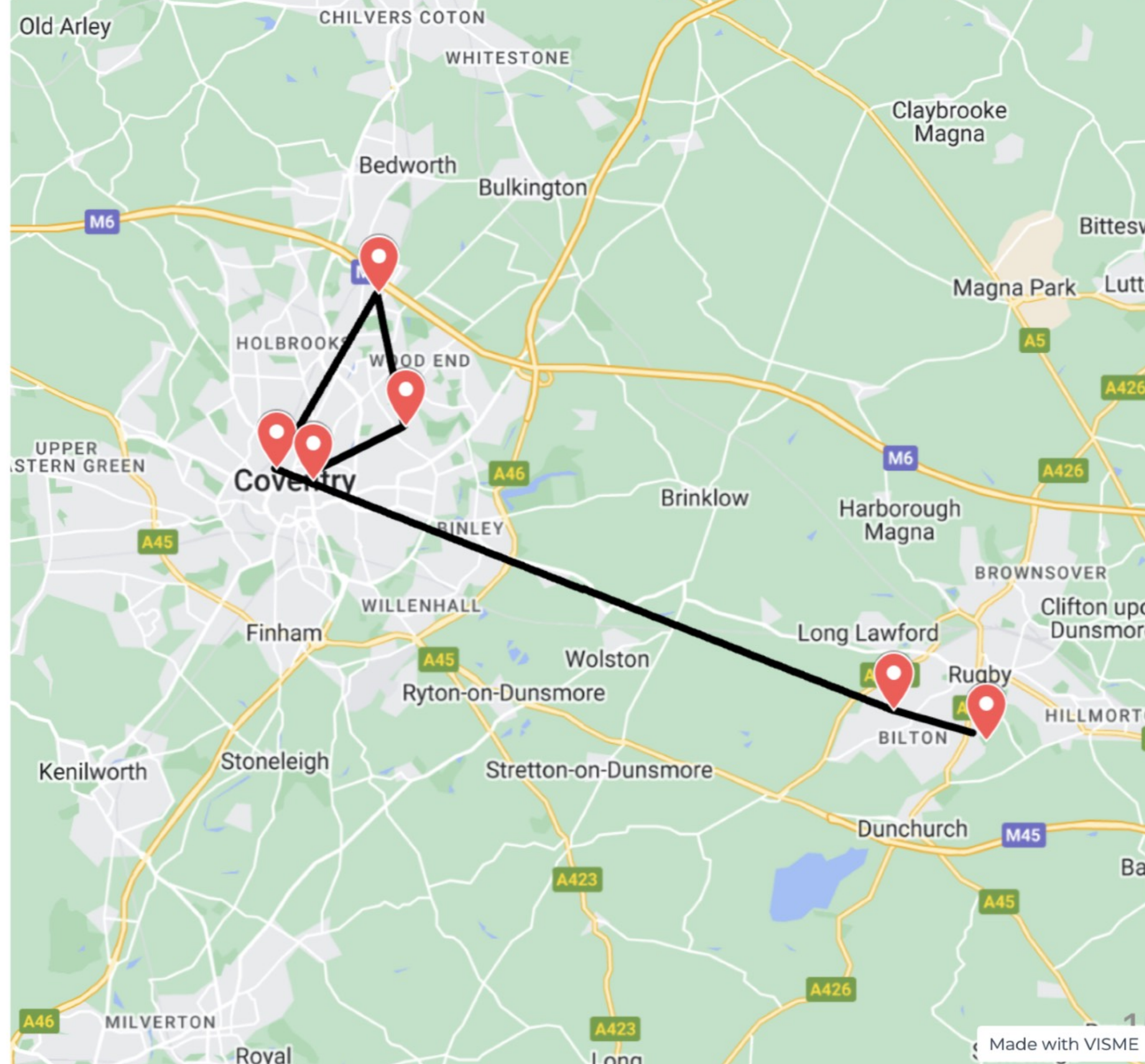


# A Tour to Schools

From the **18 - 25th October 2024**, Highly Sprung Performance toured their new show 'Accelerate' to **6 schools across Coventry and Rugby**, where they performed twice a day.

<b>18th October:</b>	Rugby Free School
<b>21st October:</b>	Bilton School
<b>22nd October:</b>	Barrs Hill School
<b>23rd October:</b>	Foxford School
<b>24th October:</b>	Lyng Hall
<b>25th October:</b>	Sidney Stringer

Across 12 shows, Accelerate: The Performance hosted an **overall audience of 2,070 students.**



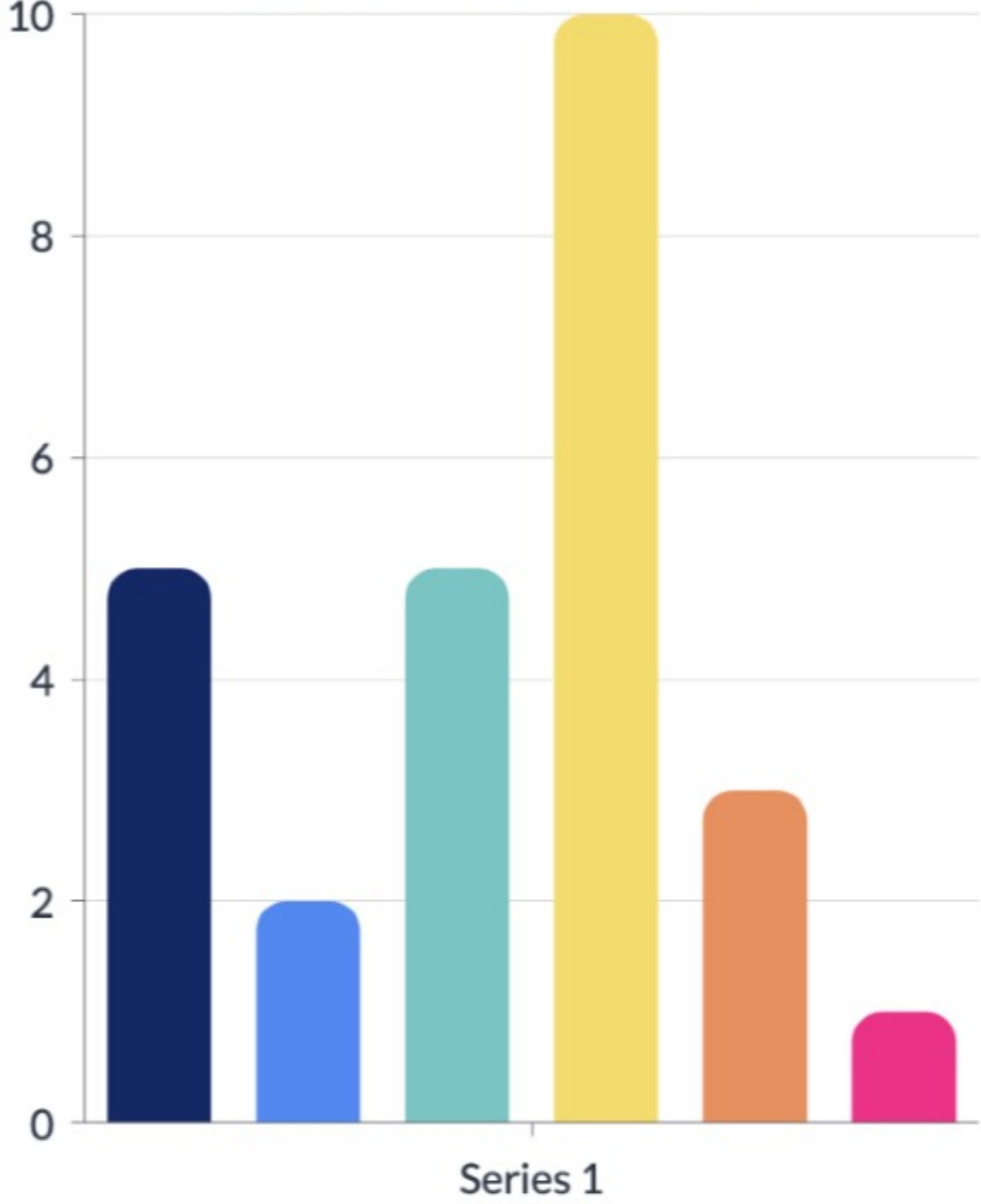
# About the Schools...

37.4% of students are eligible for free school meals



Eligible Non-eligible

### School IMD Decile



Rugby Free School Bilton School  
Barrs Hill School Foxford School  
Lyng Hall Sidney Stringer

### Represented Ethnicities



Asian/Asian British  
Black/African/Carribbean British  
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups  
White  
Other ethnic groups

**A big thank you to our team at  
Highly Sprung Performance, the  
Young Producers Collective and  
our partners:**

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### Our Partners

**e-on**



**sustainability**  
west midlands

**WVG**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

