

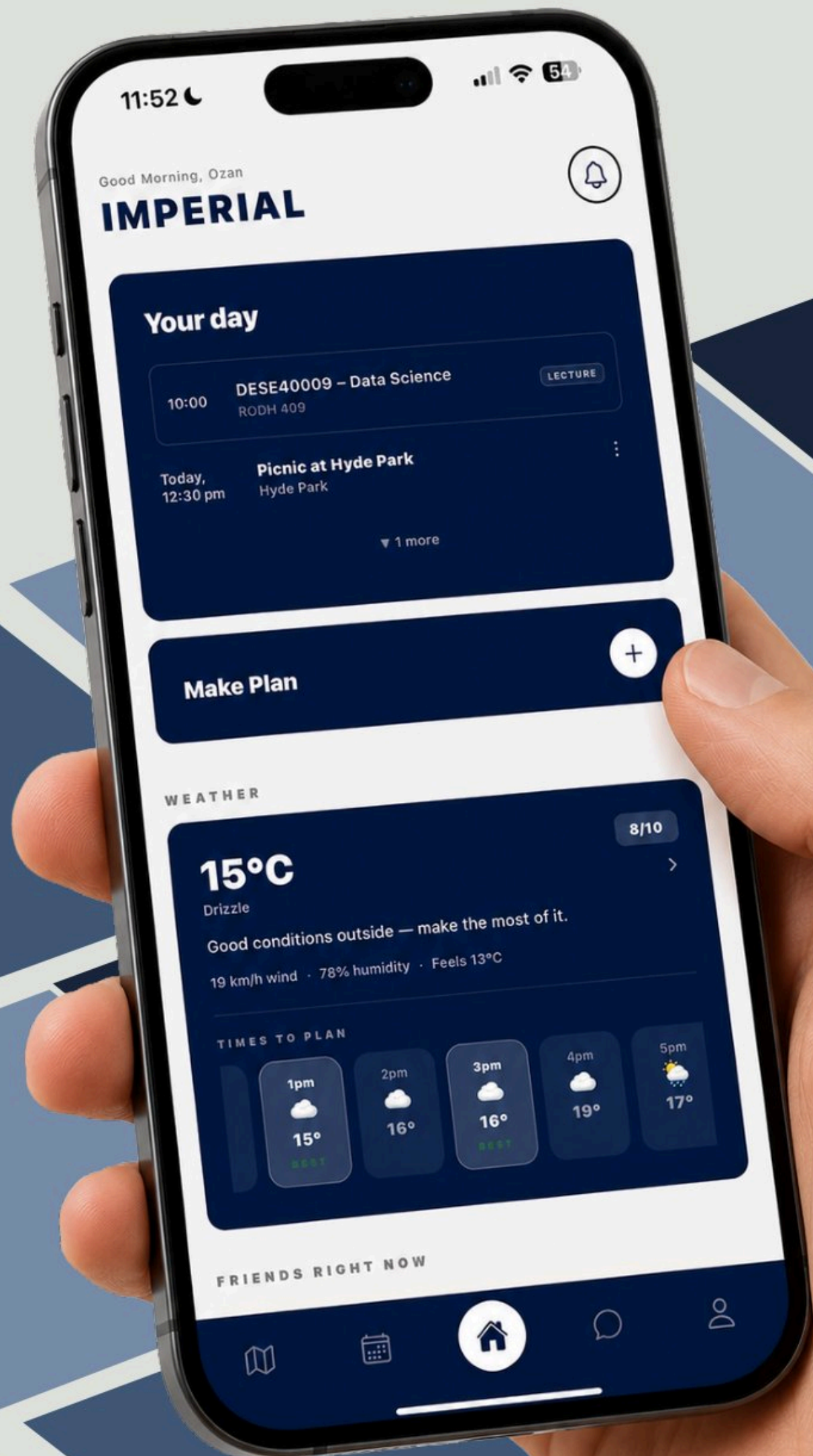
Cooped Up

by 4sD

HCDE 2026

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Executive Summary

Design Challenge

Building on our Discovery Report's findings, we set out to solve the following **HMW**:

How might we prevent weather from limiting students' social life to improve their wellbeing?

And address the following **insights**:

When the weather is changeable, **students don't make the effort to move outside**

Long periods of bad weather **restrict student's social life**, keeping them in their rooms, leading to boredom and pent-up energy

User Group

Imperial students who want to regularly coordinate activities around **changing schedules** and **weather conditions**.

Prototyping

Initial idea - discovery report prototype

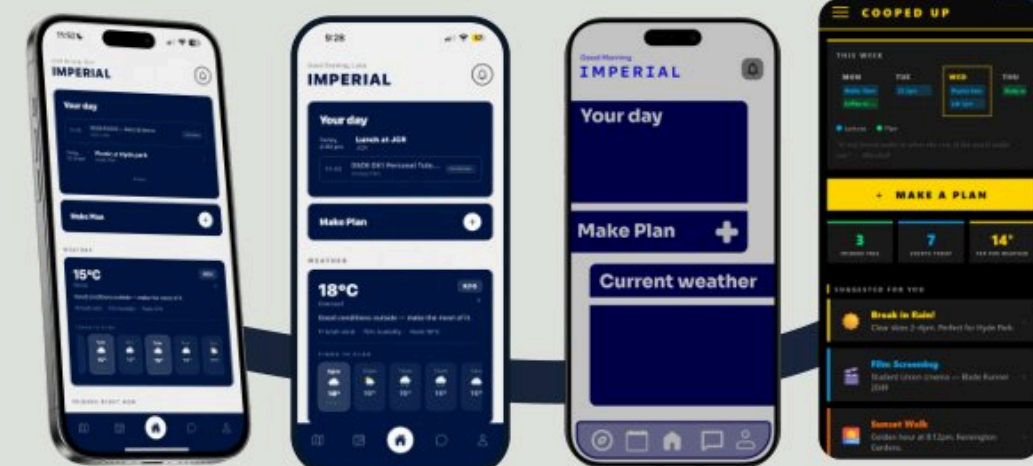
wireframes and flowchart

3 initial app prototypes

works-like for testing



UI developments



Testing

Interactive Research Methods
Ranking of functions and potential features

3 Apps Testing
5 minutes of app usage focused on intuitivity and ease of use

Live Testing
Multiple days of testing focused on gathering real-world usage data and feedback

Feedback

Interactive Research Methods

- **Calendar** and **weather data** were most valued.
 - Users wanted **low-effort** social planning.
- **Location** and **busyness** influenced decisions.
 - **Familiar, intuitive** interfaces were preferred.



Final design

Cooped Up encourages social interaction and **eases planning** by using data to suggest activities and assist user decisions.

Core Values

Socialising Co-ordination

Discovery

Accessing the outdoors

Flexible

Reduced angst

Weather awareness

Friendship

3 Apps Testing

- The **weather** and **schedules** drive planning.
- Effort was reduced by **simple recommendations**.
- **Simple maps** aid decision making
- Social features encourage engagement.
- **Usability** drives adoption

Live Testing

- Integrate **off-platform sharing** of plans.
- Increase **calendar functionality** and **time slot flexibility**.
- The **map feature** needed reworking.



Concept Selection

HMWs & Concepts

For each HMW we generated a concept:

1. Weather Wardrobe App
2. Cooped Up - Social App
3. Outdoor Desks



1. How might we **prevent disruption caused by unpredictable weather** to reduce the impact on students' routines?

2. How might we prevent weather from limiting **students' social life** to improve their wellbeing?

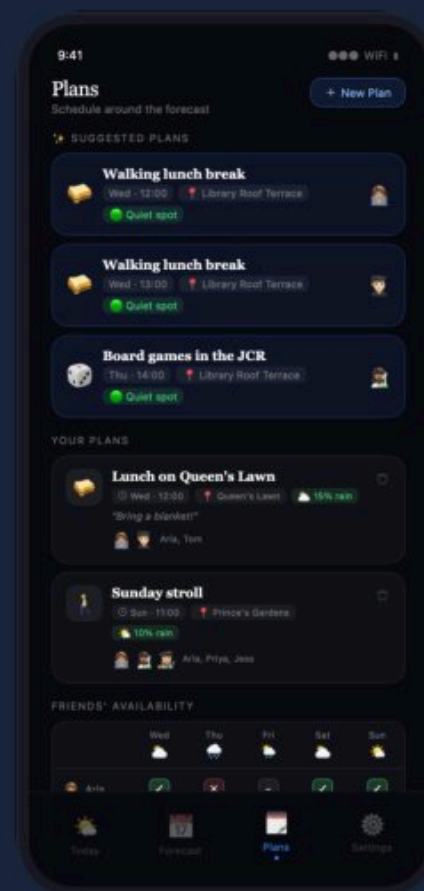
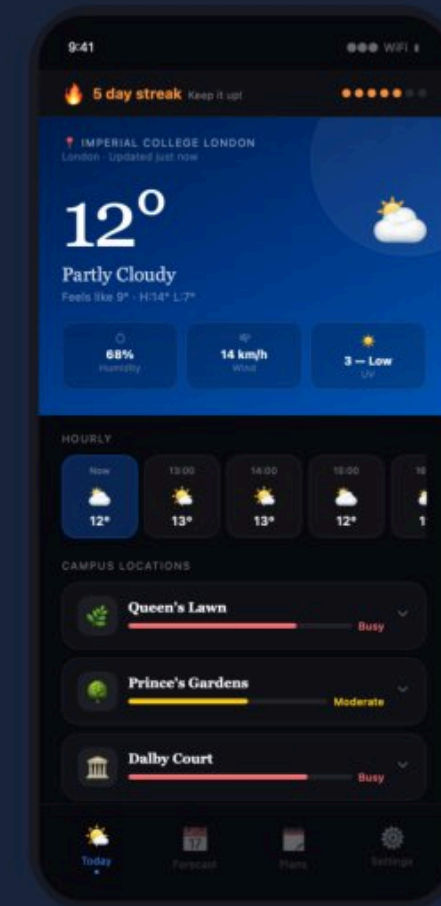
3. How might we increase the **usability of outdoor spaces** when the weather is good to improve productivity?



Cooped Up

Ultimately, we chose to take the Cooped Up app forwards.

We felt that Cooped Up best addressed the **underlying needs of students** and the insights and HMWs from the Discovery Report, which is why we decided to take it forward.



The app suggests meeting times and locations **based on weather conditions and a shared schedule** between friends - this creates social opportunities that may otherwise be missed

Additionally, it helps **reduce anxiety** around making plans by providing data based suggestions, instead of leaving things to chance.

Friction Points:

A summary of the key problem areas uncovered in our Discovery Report.



Distractions - Students have a lot of work to do but sometimes struggle to focus, due to the desire to socialise

Study Spaces - Students sometimes struggle to find outdoor spaces for study on campus

Socialising - Once settled down for the evening students often don't feel like being social again, but feel they don't see their friends enough

Social Spaces - Students enjoy eating with their friends and socialising on campus in the evening, but it can be too busy

Meeting User Needs

Below are some quotes from our Discovery Report's personas and some ways the app might address these issues



- Shared schedules

- Group chats

- Creating shared plans

I am getting tired of just studying and not seeing my friends

- Weather Integration

- Location sharing

- Location busyness

I wish I could spend more time outside hanging out with friends or studying

Design Outline

Initial Design Requirements

Primarily, Cooped Up should...

- 1. Encourage social interaction** through suggestion of activities, times, and who to meet, dependant on available data e.g. weather, busyness, and/or schedules.
- 2. Ease planning** by using available data to assist deciding when, where and who to plan something with.

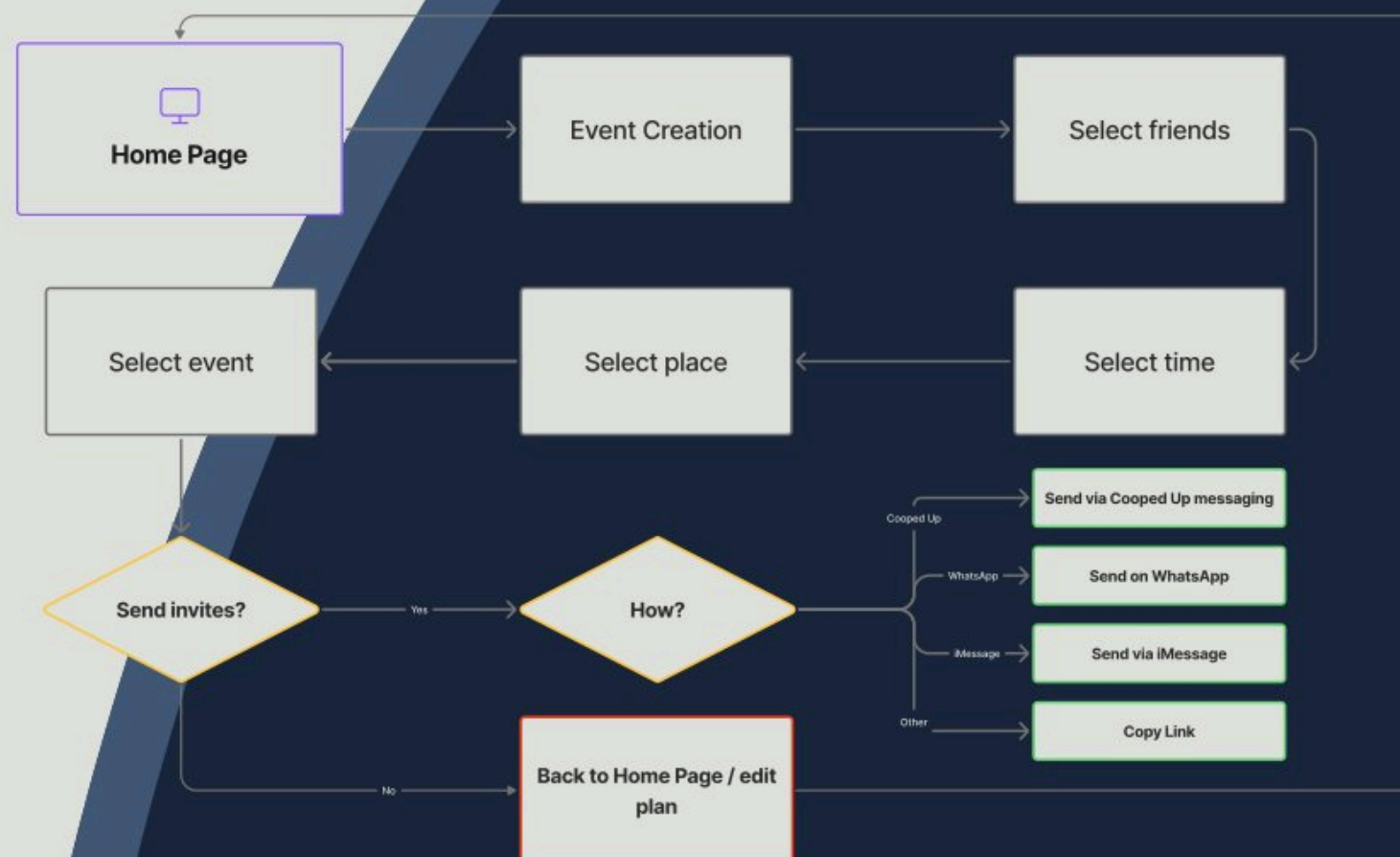
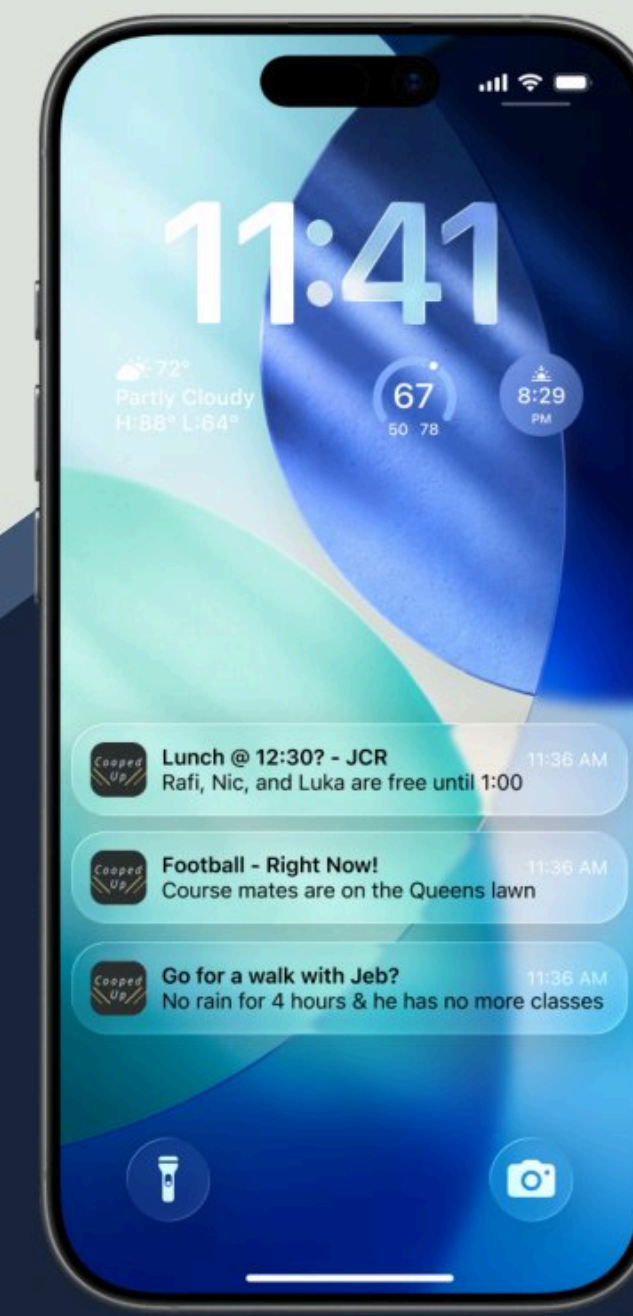
This presents Cooped Up in two forms:

Where it acts
proactively
through **notifications** or **suggestions** to enable strong social interactions despite difficulties such as long periods of poor weather or busy schedules

These functions of Cooped Up aim to **address our two key insights by promoting social interaction** through ease of organisation of plans and by taking advantage of data to create more social opportunities.

Where it acts
passively
through **the app** to help a user with making plans, checking on their friends, or looking for things to do

Based on our initial design requirements we began making **wireframe prototypes** of the Cooped Up app and **flowcharts** for key features.



These lofi prototyping techniques helped us to define the **project direction** and ensure our goals were aligned as we started to **create higher fidelity prototypes.**

Interactive Research Session

What we wanted to learn

1. Which **features** would tempt potential users to use Cooped up **week-after-week** and **why**?
2. What **information** do potential users want to be **prioritised** in Cooped up and **why**?
3. Users' **Initial UI preferences** through what apps people already use and some sample UI's we provided.
4. Any common app **pitfalls** we should avoid.

Briefly:

We wanted to understand **what to focus our future prototypes on** and gain an understanding of what they might look like

We gave two pairs of users a green set of cards, a blue set, and a set of UI photos:

Green set - potential features

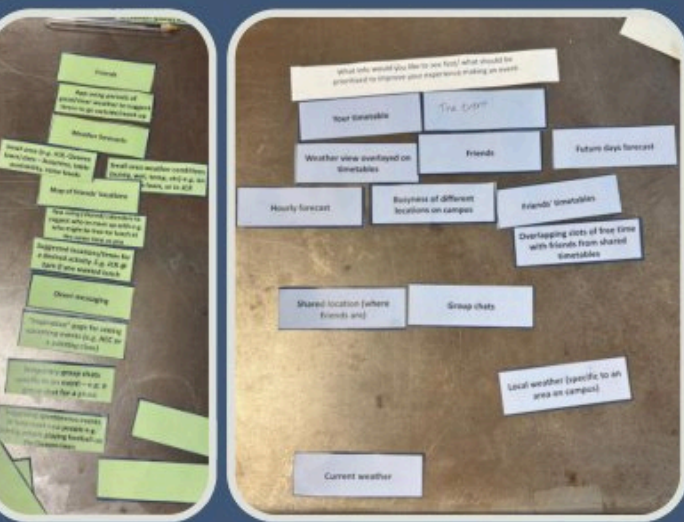
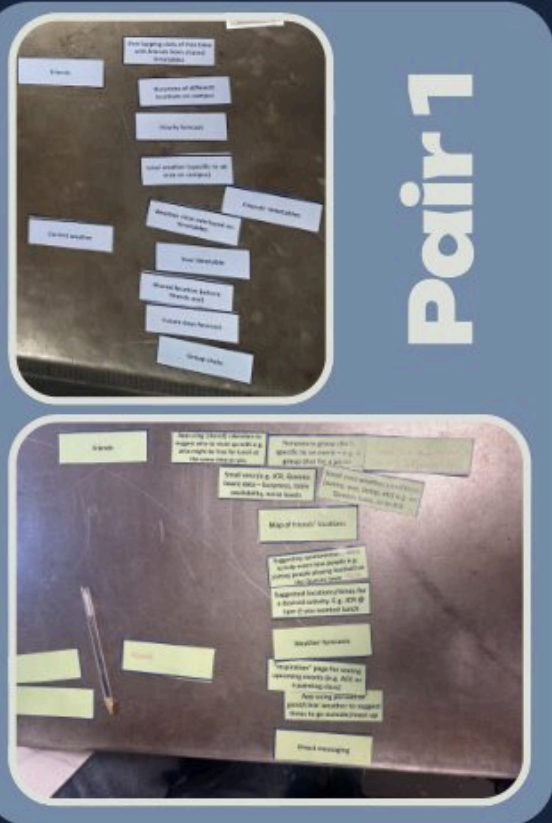
Blue set - information Cooped can display/use

For both card sets, and the UI photos, we asked the pairs to:

Rank each set on what they would like to see and what they would use.

Weather forecasts	App using periods of good/clear weather to suggest times to go outside/meet up
App using (shared) calendars to suggest who to meet up with e.g. who might be free for lunch at the same time as you	Suggesting spontaneous events to help meet new people e.g. joining people playing football on the Queens lawn
Small area weather conditions (sunny, wet, temp, etc) e.g. on Queens lawn, or in JCR	Friends
Small area (e.g. JCR, Queens lawn) data - busyness, table availability, noise levels	Temporary group chats specific to an event - e.g. a group chat for a picnic
Map of friends' locations	"Inspiration" page for seeing upcoming events (e.g. ACC or a painting class)
Suggested locations/times for a desired activity. E.g. JCR @ 1pm if you wanted lunch	Direct messaging

Local weather (specific to an area on campus)	Your timetable
Friends' timetables	Overlapping slots of free time with friends from shared timetables
Weather view overlayed on timetables	Friends
Current weather	Hourly forecast
Future days forecast	Group chats
Shared location (where friends are)	Busyness of different locations on campus



Pair 2

We gave the pairs blank cards to allow them to write any new ideas they had.

Pair 1 made the suggestion of **shared photo albums** within the temporary group chats, which would ease the process of sharing high quality photos, particularly between IOS and android devices

What was the activity?

Additional questions

We also asked the following warm-up questions to help answer questions 3 & 4.

1. What features or characteristics make you frequently using an app
2. What things make you delete an app very soon after downloading it?
3. Are there any features that would make you use a social app every day?
4. Which social or planning apps do you currently use frequently?

What did we learn?

Our users would use...

Data about locations around campus to help make plans



Breaks in weather to create social plans

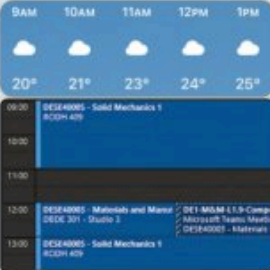
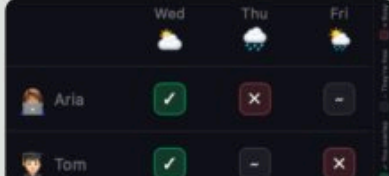
Temporary group chats with shared photo albums



Weather forecast - using words & graphs, not just numbers

When making a plan they want to see...

Slots of shared free time



Their timetable and weather information

Busyness of campus locations



Q1: Users like...

- Intuitive layouts - testing highlighted the NatWest app
- No bugs



Q2: Avoid...

- Lots of notifications
- Paywalls
- Confusing UI's
- Replicating existing app features

Q3:

- Nothing came immediately to mind for our users.

Q4:

- Instagram
- Whatsapp
- LockedIn



Additional Questions Summary

Conclusions

Cooped Up needs to focus on **overlaying shared calendars and weather data** to help make plans, and create social opportunities

The pro-active side of the app should focus on making **intelligent suggestions to aid decision making**, instead of notifications

Morphological Prototyping

Summary

Our next step was to create 3 higher fidelity prototypes, using **Claude** and **ExpoGo**.



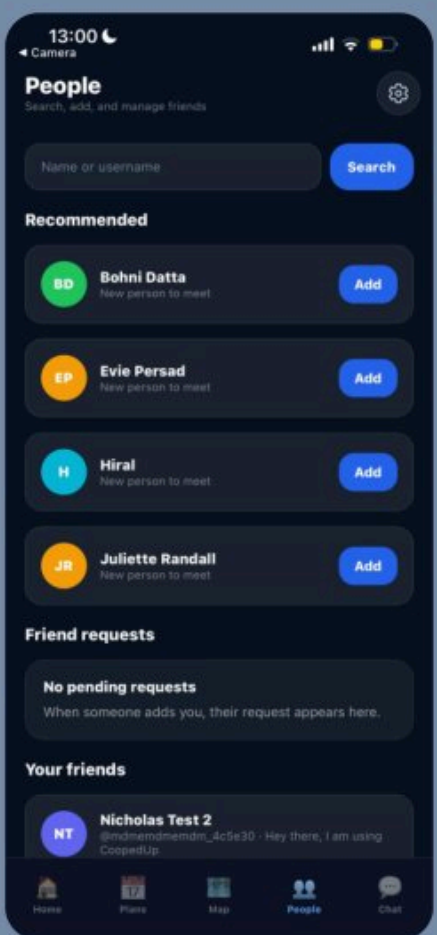
We used morphological methods to create 3 prototypes, with **different UI, flows and features** for each

Modern
Minimalist



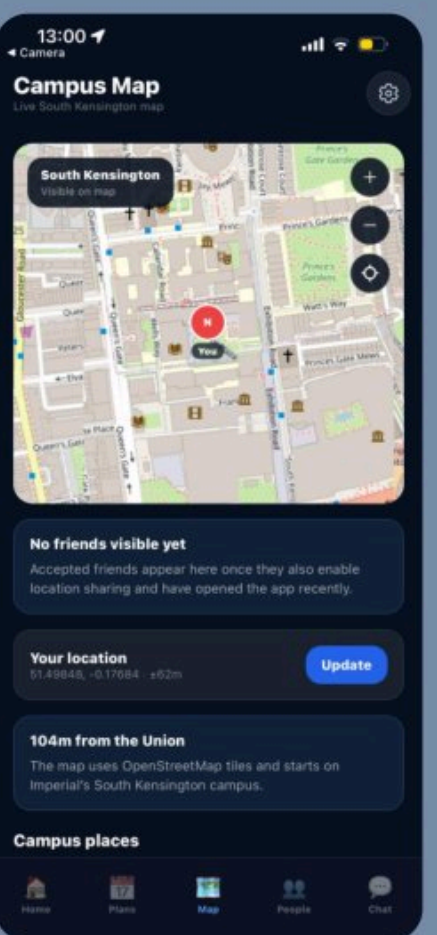
This was the most functional prototype, allowing users to add and **message** each other, building the **technical knowledge** we needed for later iterations.

Suggested friends are based on **common interests**



The app also used **phones' location data** to allow users to see where their friends are

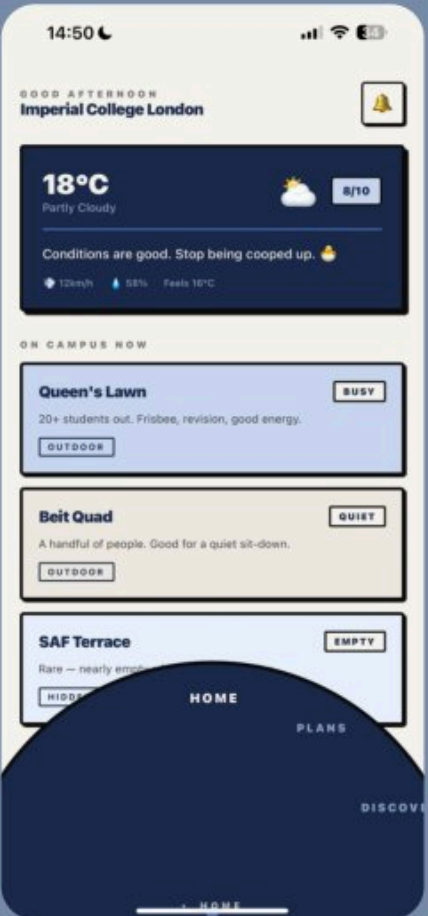
A simple menu bar was used to navigate this app



App 2



This prototype featured an **Imperial style UI** and a **user onboarding** process.



This interface uses a **dial** to switch between tabs, making the interaction **more playful**.



The app also featured **badges, awards and streaks** to encourage and reward repeated use of the app.



A map shows key locations on campus, where **friends** are, and how **busy** each location is.

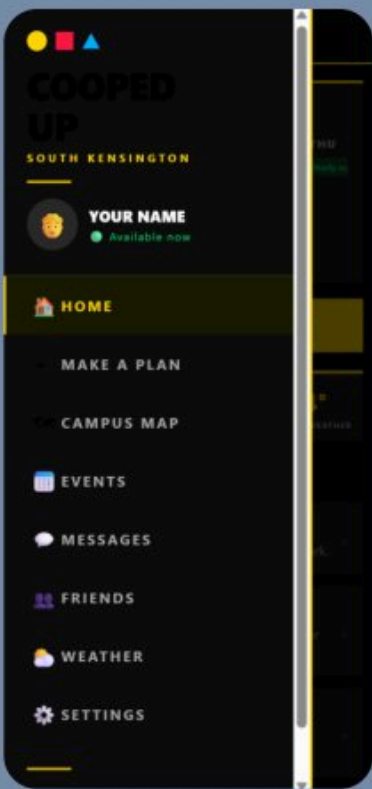
App 1

Imperial
Theme

The weather data was given a **score out of 10**, informing the user how suitable the weather is for social activity.

App 3

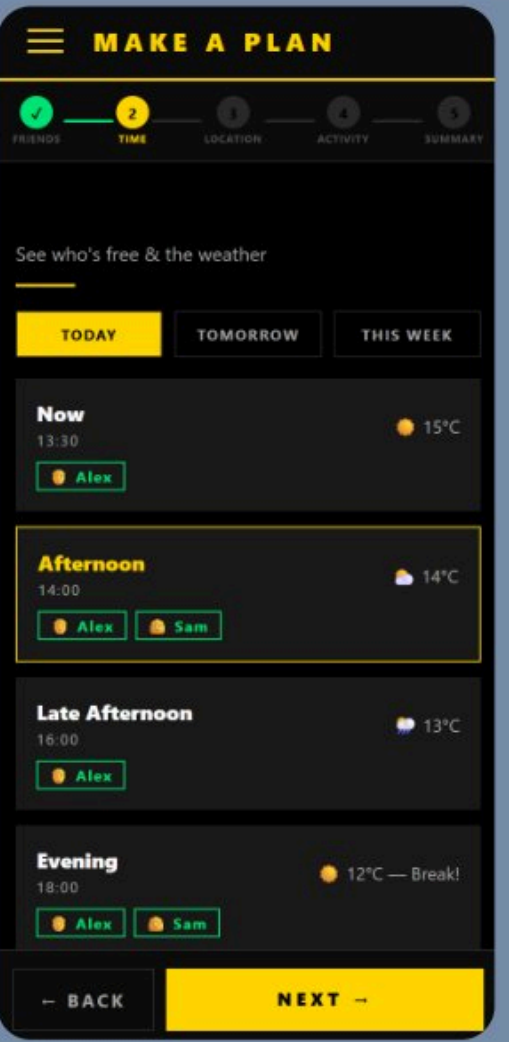
Neon
Barbers



This app uses a **ham burger side menu**

This app focuses on the flow of event creation, users specify:
1. Who
2. When
3. Where
4. What

Choosing based on **app suggestions**



3 Apps Feedback

Summary

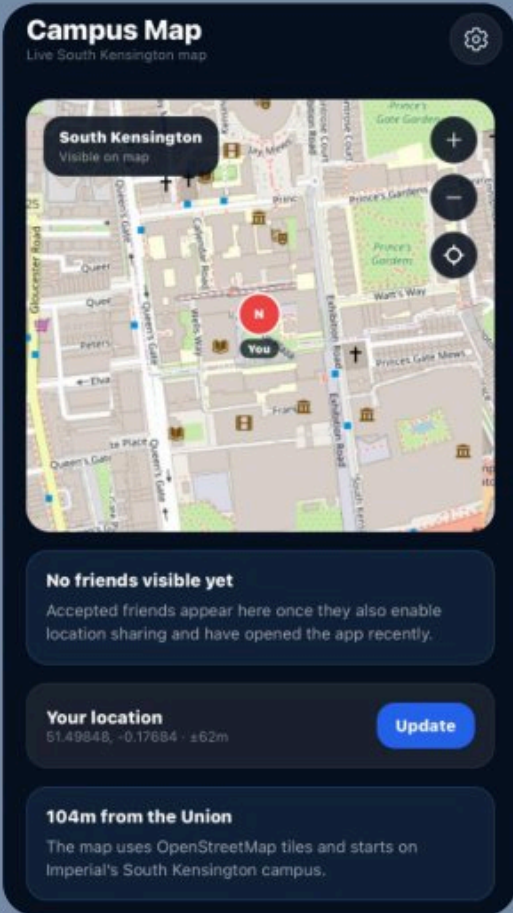
Our testing strategy for these prototypes was focused on the app's **discoverability** and **ease of use**

After 5 minutes of use, users were given a small set of tasks to complete, talking us through their thoughts while using the app.

Further details and findings are in the appendix.

App 2 - Modern Minimalist Aesthetic

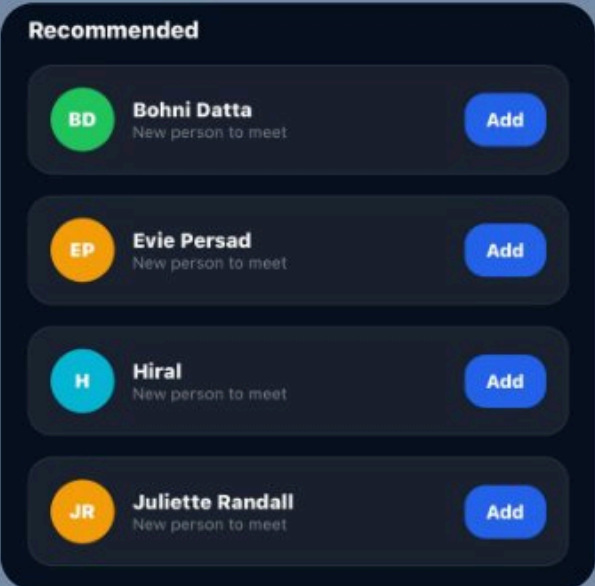
Users liked the **location sharing** features of App 2.



Users commented that they should be able to see a **forecast** for the upcoming week not just for today.



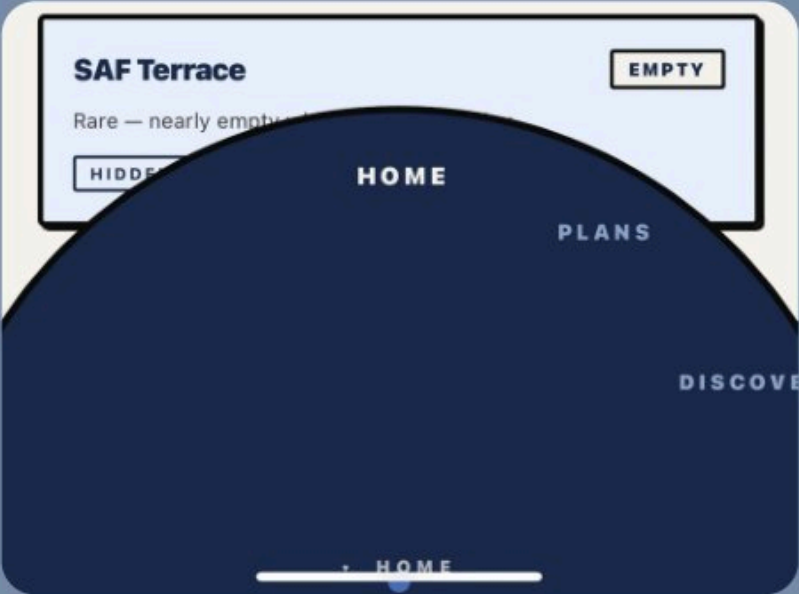
Social features, such as **friend suggestions** were very popular, as it encouraged users to **connect with each other**.



App 1 - Imperial Style UI

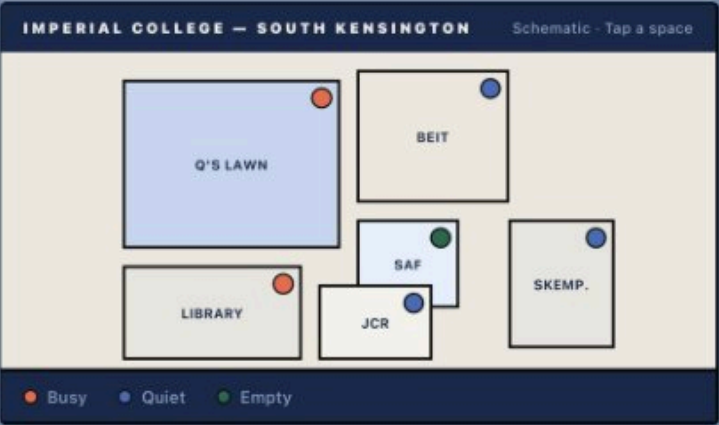


Users really liked **App 1's badges**, and messaging as it incentivised social interaction.



Initially users really liked the **dial tab control**, but after using it for longer they reported that it was **frustrating**, slow, and buggy.

Users liked that the app **rated the weather**, reducing cognitive load, by making it **obvious when users should arrange plans**.



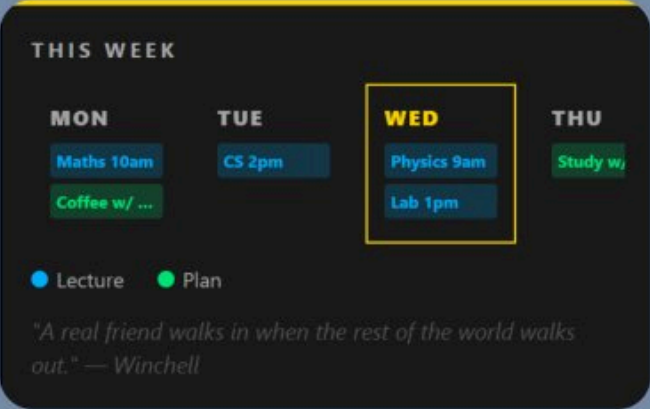
App 3 - Neon Bauhaus Aesthetic

Overall, **users preferred App 3's flow** for event creation, despite it being the least functional app.

User's want to be able to **see their calendar** and be given planning suggestions based on their **friends' calendars**.



Users highlighted that the app **suggested times** based on selected friends and the weather forecast, **reducing cognitive load**.



Next Iteration

Key Changes

1. Simplify Event Creation

Users wanted a faster, more flexible planning process with fewer steps, clearer navigation, and minimal effort required.

2. Make Weather more central

Weather should be integrated directly into event creation.

3. Strengthen Social Coordination

The app should better support group planning through messaging, voting and shared event experiences.

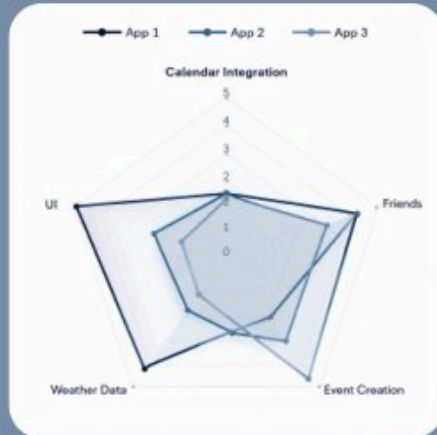
4. Improve Calendar & Availability Clarity

Users need a clearer understanding of their schedule, friend availability, and where plans are stored.

5. Enhance Location Discovery

Maps should provide meaningful information such as busyness, weather suitability, and activity options.

This is a summary of our findings from user feedback.



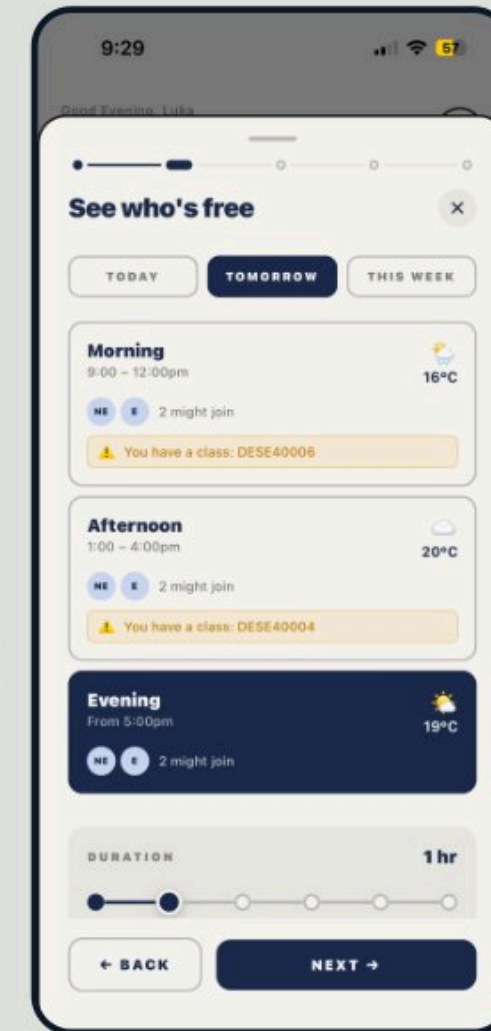
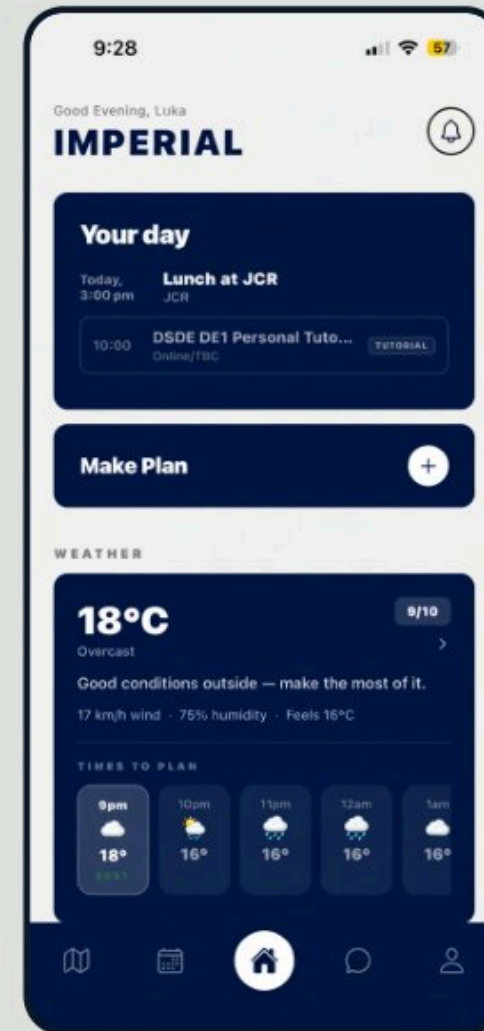
Ratings of features for the 3 apps

Prototype Development

Timetabling

User feedback showed that students wanted it to be **more obvious when they and their friends were free.**

Therefore, we made the timetable data instantly visible on the **homepage** under the **“Your Day”** tab.



Event Creation

Users liked App 3's flow of event creation, so we developed this further.

We also allowed users to **leave details blank** and **simplified the process** overall.

Wireframes

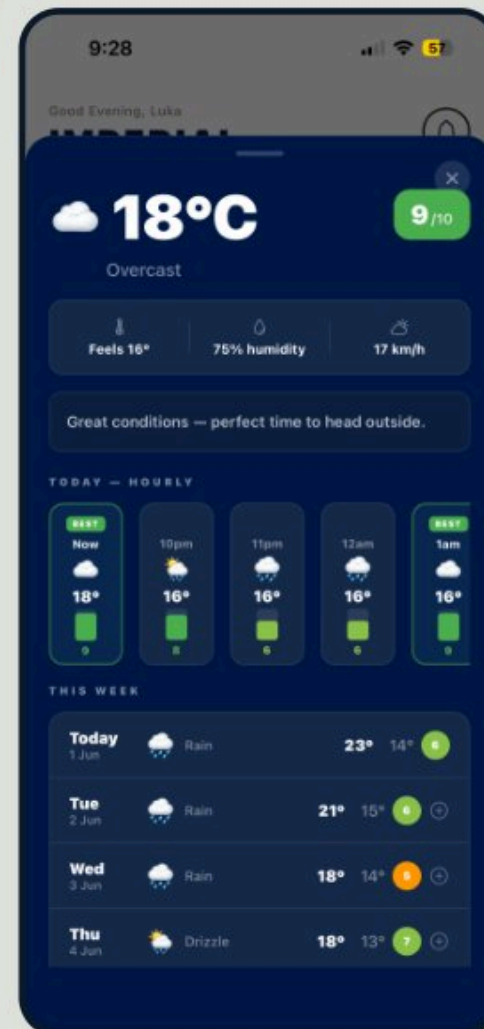


We created a set of wireframes before beginning coding. They were used to **guide AI agents** (Claude code) in developing the app, by defining **layouts, navigation patterns and feature placement** more precisely.

Weather Data

Our user testing confirmed that users liked being told what times were most suitable to make plans, so we made this even more accessible.

Users can now **make plans directly from the weather tab**, based on suggestions.

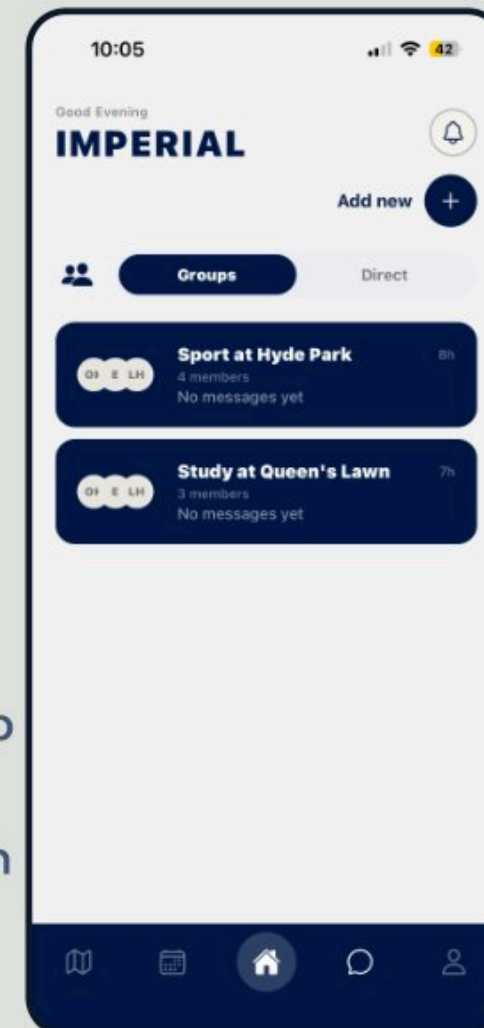
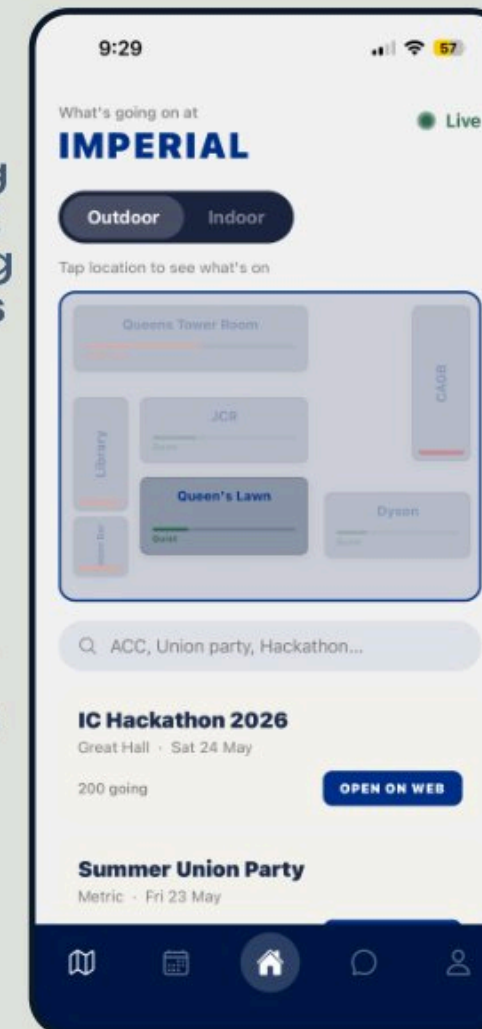


Location

We simplified the map and made more information available on expansion of locations.

Group Chats

Users liked the automatic creation of group chats in App 2, and we also added the option to create **permanent groups**.



Live Testing

Summary

Using our new prototype, we **hosted a server** to allow users to test the app over **multiple days**.

This gave us a good chance to collect **quantitative data** on app usage and inform our next iteration.

Backend tracking

- badges
- chat_groups
- friendships
- group_members
- map_interactions
- messages
- plan_attendees
- plan_invites
- plans
- users

Using **Supabase analytics**, backend activity was tracked throughout the live test to collect **quantitative data on user behaviour and feature engagement**.

total_users	total_plans	total_messages	total_friendships	total_plan_joins	map_interactions
10	14	38	27	31	0

Users engaged beyond event creation.

37 messages sent
27 friendships created

Users actively utilised the app's social features, showing the app's value beyond simply organising events.

Limited map engagement highlights an improvement opportunity.

0 map interactions recorded

No map interactions were recorded, suggesting the feature's purpose was unclear. Future iterations should improve its visibility and integration within the planning workflow.

Qualitative Feedback

Users found the event creation process **intuitive** and simple in this iteration, especially being able to **create events from the weather tab**.

However, they complained that the time slots for events were restrictive, but some users still met for lunch on Queen's Lawn.

Several users mentioned that they had found it **hard to keep track** of all of their lectures and plans.

They suggested improving the **calendar** on the app.

Validation

Of the 10 users we tested the app with, 8 of them said that they could see themselves using the app in their **day to day life**.

The 2 who did not commented that they did not want to have to use another app to message their friends on top of all the **existing social apps**.

Takeaways

1. Rework Map Feature

Backend data showed that the map feature was completely unused, but previous research with users suggested it was a desirable feature.

2. Improve calendar functionality

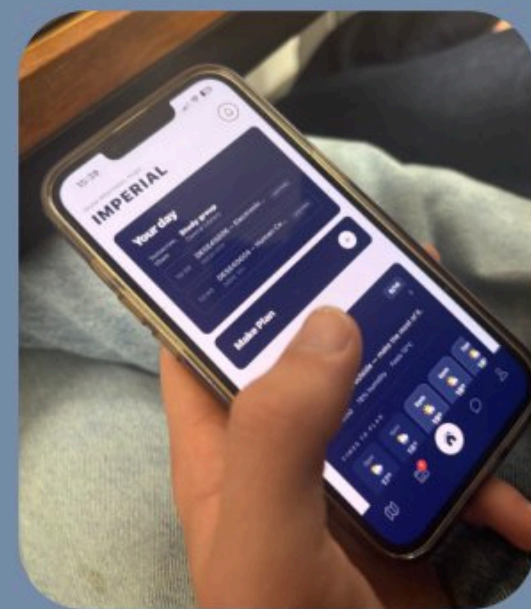
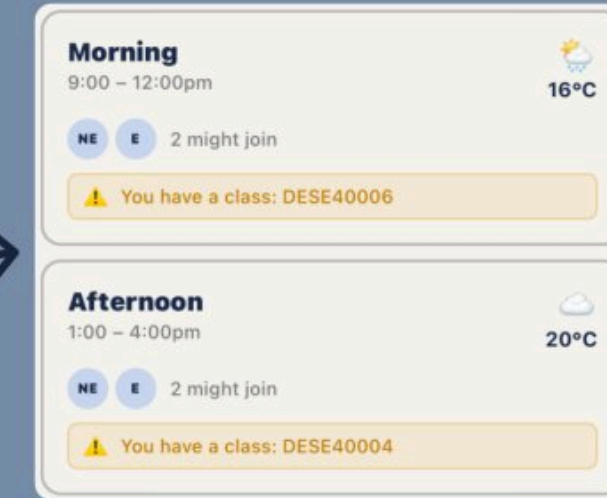
Users want to be able to see their uni timetables and plans in more detail.

3. Increase time slot flexibility

Slots for events are restrictive and don't allow for short plans.

4. Allow off platform sharing

Not all users want to start using an entirely new messaging platform.



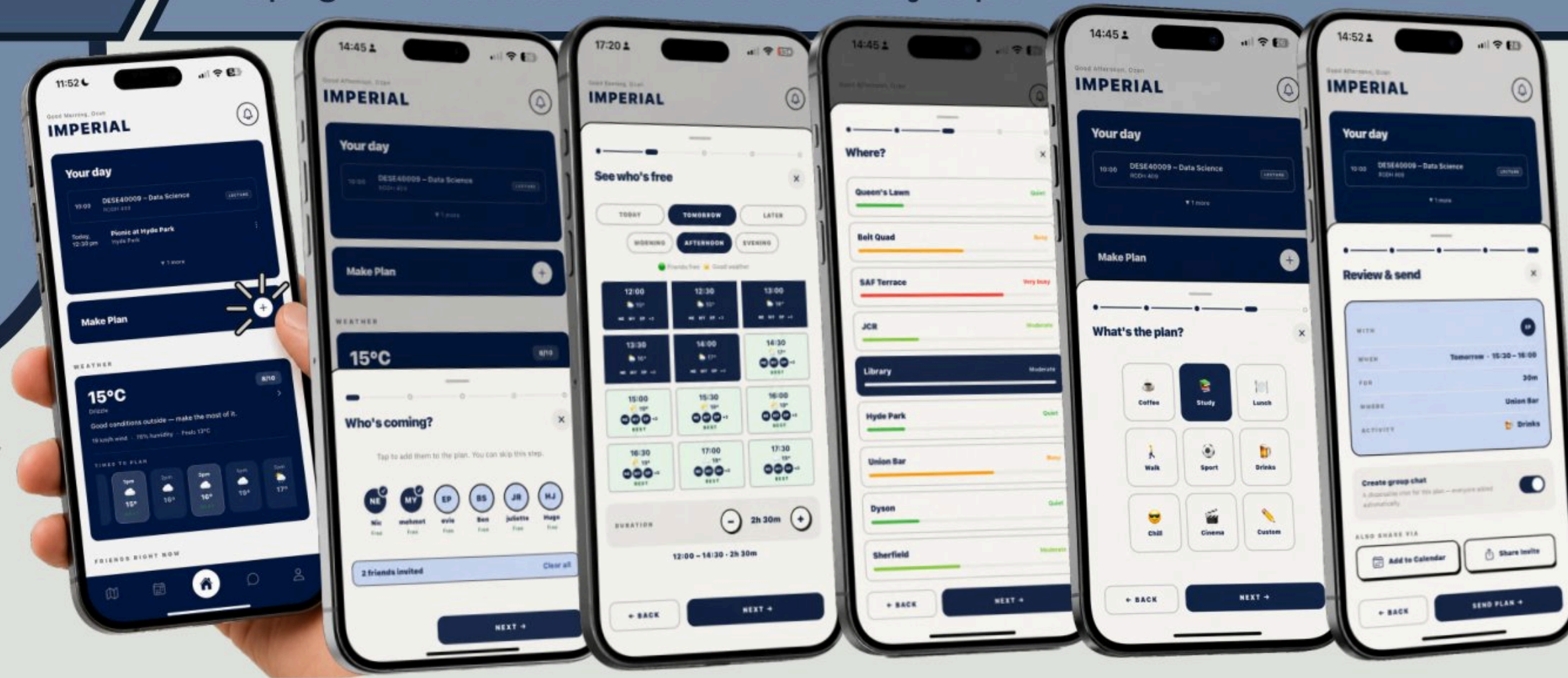
Final design

Make a plan

The below renders show the process of making a plan in Cooped Up. Importantly, selecting **who to invite** and **who is free** is seen alongside **local weather data**, as well as the busyness of different locations, reducing the risk people of being unavailable, getting caught out by bad weather, or overcrowding - helping make successful social events easy to plan.

Cooped Up encourages making **social plans** despite undesirable weather, using predictive and live **weather and busyness data** alongside **shared schedules** to maximise the opportunity for socialising while minimising the stress of making plans.

This directly address our **HMW** question by minimising potential disruption to students' social lives and wellbeing due to weather.



Storyboard



Matt checks his calendar and the weather for the day before leaving for campus.

Matt decides he wants to grab some lunch with mates, and creates a plan.

Matt then texts the group chat to arrange what they will eat, and send any photos or specific locations to meet.

Matt and his mates use the map to find each other, and can see who is running late.

Plans sorted!



The map has been reworked, the calendar has been upgraded, a greater range of time slots are provided and off app sharing has been added.

Final Validation

To validate that the changes we had made were improvements, we tested the app again with 5 of the users from our live testing. The redesigned map was found to be more intuitive, while the addition of weather informed suggestions and expanded availability timeslots made planning social activities easier and more efficient

I could definitely see myself using this now, especially the map

This would have been nice in the winter

These results suggest that Cooped Up successfully reduces the barriers created by timetabling and weather when organising social activities.



Temporary **group chats** are created when a plan is made

Users can collect **trophies**, gamifying socialising.

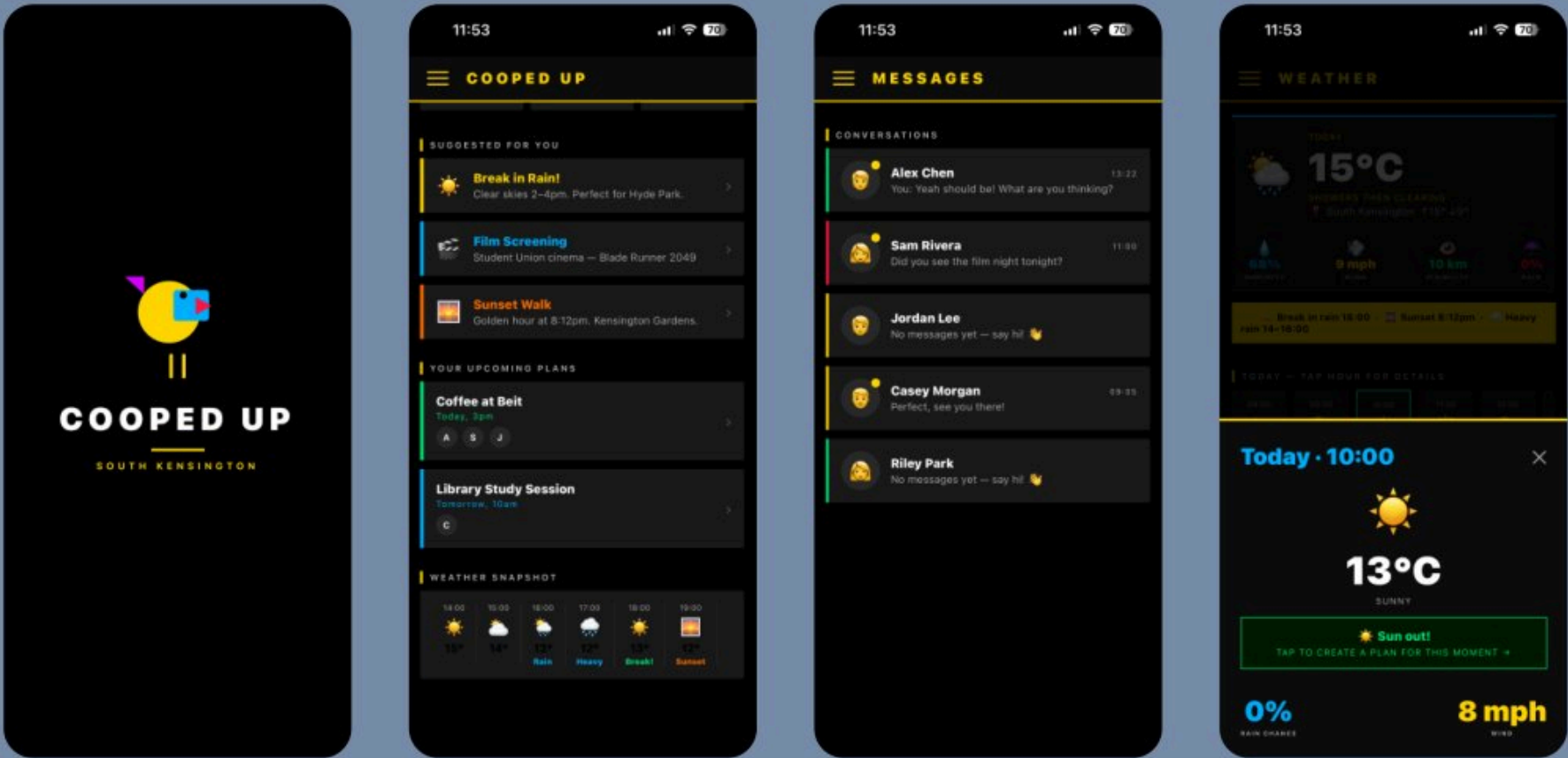


A detailed **weather forecast** with suggested slots for plans is included.

Users can see where their **friends** are on campus and how **busy** these locations are.

Appendix 1

App 3 Screen Shots



Meeting Notes

Please see link to meeting notes below:

Primary: https://1drv.ms/w/c/d5690e36b4c02059/IQAfKAMB6PPpSI-UbaOEBeeSAQNJNc3_2uHRWj-Ke2YYOIO?e=3XtdKP

Backup: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gf228NqfgaZuLzsiMI89KmsU1j4UpuJ7/view?usp=drive_link

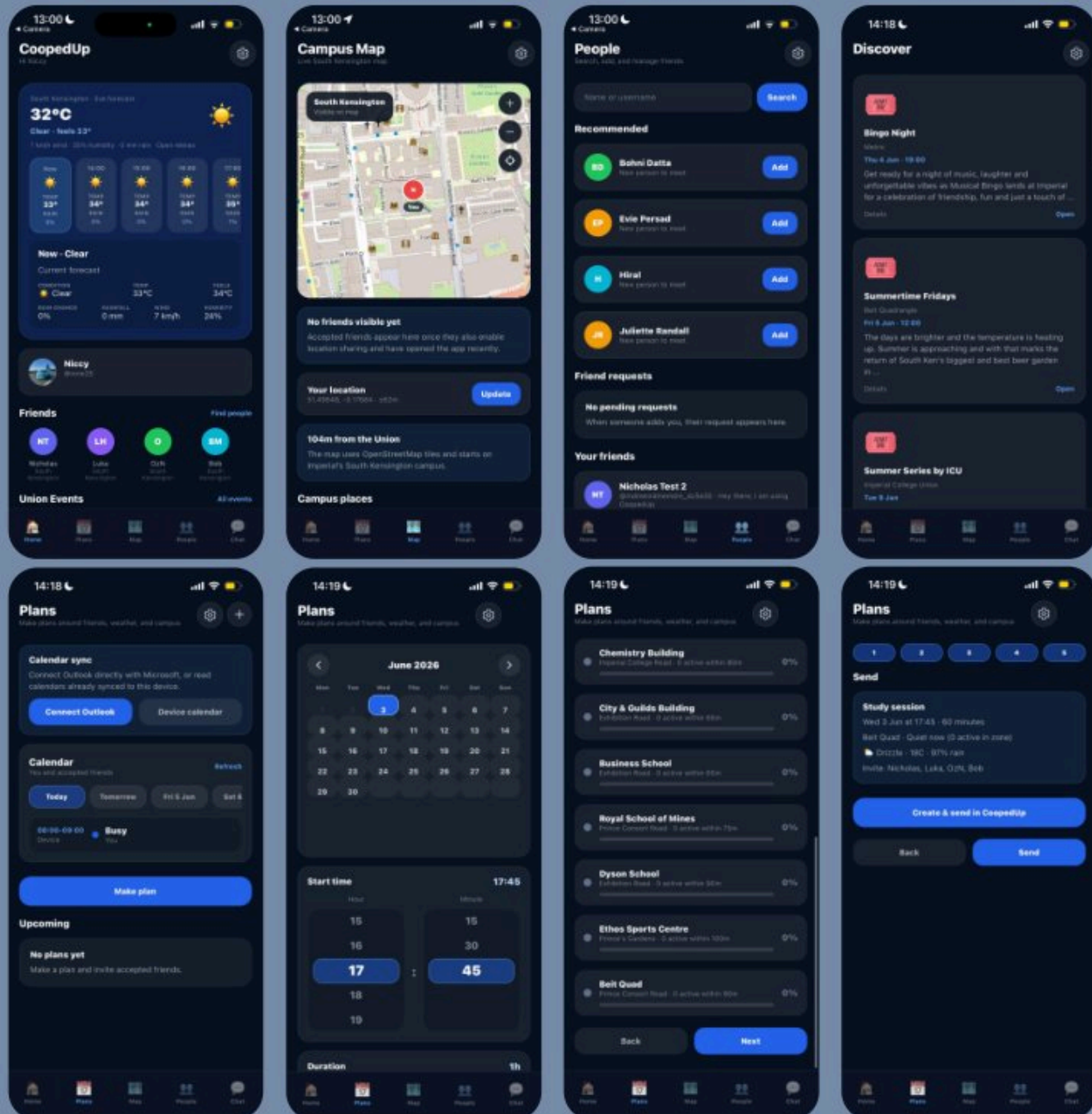
Please email Rafi at mmr125@ic.ac.uk if there are any issues with accessing the meeting minutes via these links

3 App Testing Procedure

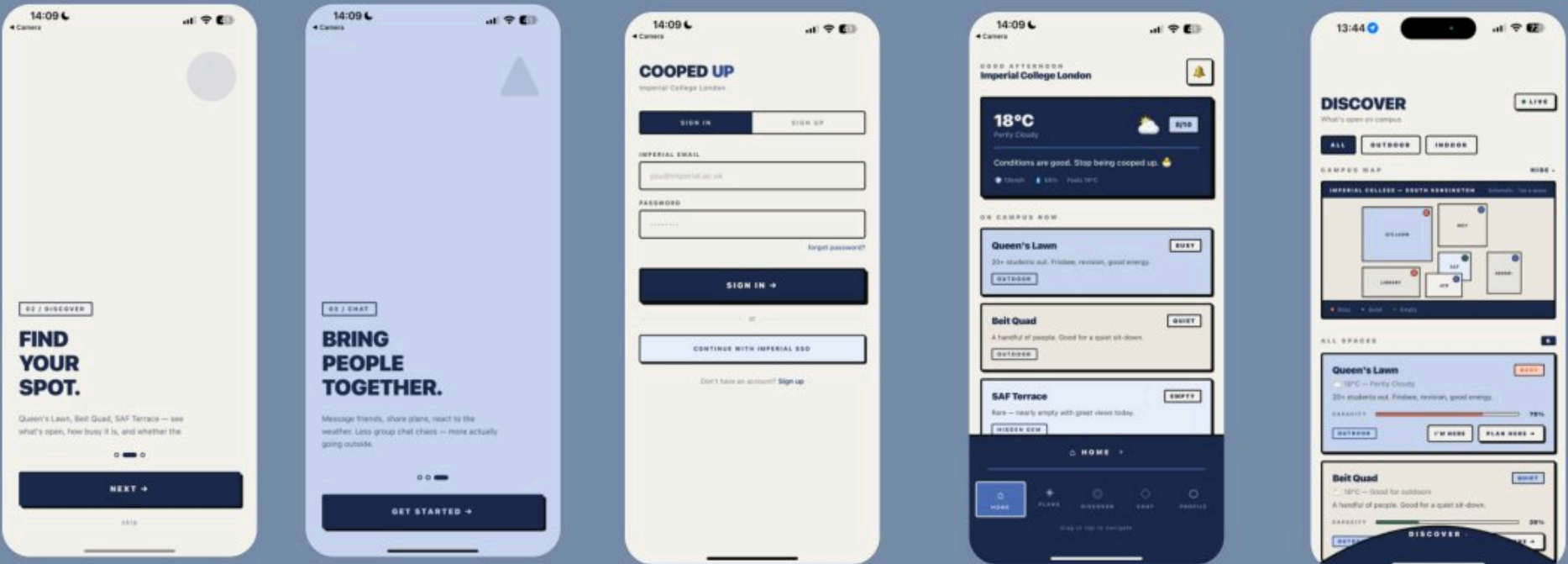
We gave users 5 minutes of free exploration and then asked them to complete the following tasks:

1. Create an event for tomorrow lunch
2. Edit an activity
3. Check the weather forecast
4. Check events by DICE / Student Union
5. Look at your calendar
6. Add and message a new friend

App 2 Screen Shots



App 1 Screen Shots



Appendix 2

Card Activity - Users 1 & 2

- Group chats are not that important because already have them
- So many versions, maybe can we combine some of them
- Stats on each plan after they are made - cloudiness, busyness....
- How far in the future can you actually plan,
- People are more impacted by their schedules rather than the weather.
- Love the apple weather app
- Too much information on the imperial map
- Definitely keep the visuals
- Light and dark mode is nice
- People won't stop using chat functions, - instead link to other chats and apps people already use.
- Calendar is liked, instead of the name could be linked to their account
- Or a hyperlink or see if they are busy
- Directions to your friends
- Could be linked to google or apple maps
- Live location in the app
- Big plus, good emphasis on main event
- Temporary group chats is really good
- You can just share your location in that groupchat, create a photo album in the groupchat,
- One of the last things - inspiration page, maybe underneath searching for event
- Suggesting lecture halls that are empty
- Or study spaces where tables are empty
- Maybe keep dms as an options
- List of people who went to an event so you can see if someone did something
- You can tick if you were at an event
- You should be able to rate a spot or event
- Comments on events
- Include the accommodations... maybe if events are happening there
- Also add museums because they are so close
- Local things to do - like POIs for plans

Card activity raw notes

Card Activity - Users 3 & 4

Blue task:

- Suggestions seem to be desirable
- Not in terms of planning events but for weather and time slots
- Shared location not really needed
- Snap maps sort of thing useful
- Current weather not really needed
- Different views depending on actions
- Current locations when planning events now
- Timetables when planning future events
- Filter whose location you can see
- Select who can see your location
- Busyness important
- Local weather not massively important
- Not a deal breaker

Green task:

- Friends important
- Adding on Luka app good system
- Weather very important
- Small area busyness etc. v important
 - +Weather
- Snap maps stuff good
- Inspiration page useful
- Messaging important
- Temp. groupchats somewhat desirable
- Shared calendars super useful
- Privacy very important for this

- Don't want people to be able to see entirety of calendar
- Public events a good option
- Not for everyone
- Need to be able to see the hosts profile
- Reordering home page would be useful
- Having interests / personality questions when joining would be useful
- Temp. gcs somewhat useful
- Badges
 - Option to make them public / private
 - Maybe it puts pressure to be super social
 - Losing a streak when you're ill
 - Maybe more like spotify wrapped
 - E.g. Weekly summary
- UI / Pics
 - Like snap maps
- Ghost mode needed
- Need options of what is visible or not visible
- Shouldn't be overly customisable
- Can be stressful
- Travel
- Maybe a google maps type of feature
 - Integrate with maps to see how long it takes to get there
 - Diff. options based on weather
 - Cycling etc.
 - Indoor routemaking would be useful
 - Or outdoor for sunny days

Appendix 3

Feedback from 3 app testing

User 1

Luka's app

- make a plan timings are a bit unclear
- uuuuu reaction on the places
- doing this everytime you hangout is kinda long
- skip button
- can you change your own calender
- how do they know you are available
- where did the plan go
- social app related to weather - observation
- the map is cool
- when the plan is created should be able to edit to add more people
- pretty intuitive
- no need for a tutorial

final thoughts pretty good easy to use, you could have a feed where you can post what you are doing
stories feed type thing where you can post photos if the event is dead you take a picture and add for example
friends you can link it to other social media apps or contacts

they like the free now feature
in events put things that might happen
voting system
Cooped up

UI - really cool colour scheme, not the biggest fan of yellow
cooped out
calender

option to put your own location

Ozan's app

switch the circles with the

adding a plan
i prefer

on the map it should change colour when pressed
it should be light mode then goes dark or comes to top

add a future prediction to the map in terms of
whats happening on campus

outdoor indoor it should highlight the map

i like the past plans
option of having photos on the plan
when you make a plan with people it kinda becomes like a shared album and you can add photos
the badges are cute and i like them
utilise dark and white a bit more on the app, dont use emojis but bohni likes the emojis
get a balance of it

i like how you can slide as well you dont always have to use the wheel, i like the pfoile section a lot

option to send the plan through another app is
really good it should stay

i like the activity plans buttons how they work

i like the fact your calender shows up

the rating on the app should be more clear as in
8/10. on each event its an rating to go on this app

app should be less suggestive and manual but
there should still be suggestions

having a real map would be helpful

Nic's app

login signin page is pretty standardn
the icon is quite boring but fits the vibe, make your own logo

the log in button should be above the keyboard,

the personal info shouldnt be on the main
pagethe first thing you see

i like the weather part its giving widget
I like the part of the adding people part
It doesnt feel new in a good way
union events be able to press on it from outside
we cant get back from some pages we have to go beginning
calender sync is really helpful

something about the calender looks really weird
but the setup is cool, its really good that it shows the weather when you are making the plan
adding your own spot
rename hangout spots for your own profile

i like the map that its real

campus places shouldnt be rater for quitness but
for busyness
seperate events for this week/next week type
sorting

the people part isnt that helpful it shouldnt be one of the main things on the app especially after you add people
it should be where the chat page is instead of a new page
add a plus next to the human icon to add new group/friend

the creation event, wasnt so good i preffer the second app, it should all be in one page, this has a loaddd of options they liked that for some reason we cant go back

She likes that it gives you stats of the area in the plans part make it bigger and fill up that space

i think theres more issues with it as in terms of app as intuitiveness and some stuff are given more importance then it should be

User 2

Nic's app

- UI a bit boring
- Friend adding is good
- Calendar integration is useful
- Map is good idea
 - Background it not good though
 - Distance from places is good
- Tabs at the bottom is the easiest to use

1. Event creation
 - a. Duration slider is good
 - b. Don't like exact time selection
 - c. Want to be able to see weather breaks and pick times based on that not other way around
 - d. Event creation too detailed / specific
 - e. Like the schedule checker
 - f. Should take to event after creation
2. Edit
 - a. Actually works - good
3. Weather
 - a. Again can only see today
4. Union
 - a. Not super easy to find
5. 2
6. Chats
 - a. Groupchats not obvious
 - b. Maybe be able to invite groups

Ozan's app

- Liked the intro bit
- Sign up doesnt work
- UI is much better
- Specific to Imperial is good
 - Branding etc.
- Weather rating is a good feature
- Big fan of the dial to change tabs
 - Later said that it was actually quite annoying
- Map is good
 - Snap maps interface is better
- Automatic location tracking would be much better than having to manually update it
- Outdoor / indoor setting is good
- Like the acheivements, badges and stats
 - A % explored thing would be cool
 - Streaks v. good
 - Maybe a sort of spotify wrapped thing would be good
- Home page a bit overwhelming
 - This app a bit less intuitive
- Weather for the week not available
- Not super obvious how to make own plan
- Preferred event creation on Luka's
 - Using times based on weather / friends breaks
- Like the public event features
 - Privacy features

1. Event creation
 - a. Less intuitive
 - b. I think data on busyness and weather needs to be shown at this stage
 - c. No friends stored on app
2. Edit
 - a. Can;t find plans
3. Weather
 - a. Can only see weather for today
4. DICE
 - a. Did not see on initial look
 - b. Makes sense
5. Calendar
 - a. Not on app
 - b. Only plans made on the app
6. Friend
 - a. Makes sense

Luka's app

- Quote is good
- Back button would be good
 - Navigation is a bit clunky
- What are events today?
- Dates / times a bit unclear
- Keyboard in the way
 - Test bar doesn't move up
- Messaging on app more useful
 - Doesn't make groupchat for events
- Need to add app to background
- DICE Integration

Tasks:

1. Lunch plans
 - a. Doesn't make a groupchat
 - b. Auto fills in text - very good
2. Edit existing activity
 - a. Not possible in app
 - b. Can only view them
3. Check weather
 - a. Very easy
 - b. Useful amount of info
 - c. Plan creation through weather not used
4. DICE Intergration
 - a. Maybe link to page
 - b. Good feature
5. Calendar
 - a. Only summary at top of home page
 - b. Would be useful
6. Add and message
 - a. Immediate message feature after adding them
 - b. Search by name / course very good

Not a big fan of UI
More upbeat / chill wanted - less harsh lines

Really big fan of the automatic message when inviting them to an event

Appendix 4

Feedback from 3 app testing pt2

User 4

Luka's app

- Both inside and outside
- making plans is so long
- skip button for things
- how can you tell if people are available
- shared calender as well
- social planning with the weather
- edit the plan
- pretty self intuitive
- no need for a tutorial
- combination of all the apps we have already
- you could link social apps, post what you are doing...
- could have a feed, post you are there. - helps give feedback on how each area is/looks
- friends could be linked to contacts and instagram friends
- voting on times about potential things
- Cooped up - too suggestive of being indoors
- love ui and colour scheme
- only on dark mode
- Cooped out
- calender actually looks like calender
- so many steps for an event - could be a bit more open ended - skipable
- partially planned event
- do your own location for an event
- really intuitive

Ozan's app

- Some of the text is wrong
 - Type in/select degree
 - sign in is not working
 - really like the swipe wheel
 - really like the colour scheme and UI
 - maybe dont have a bell
- likes that you can swipe between screens
- have the chat screen the top bit slide down, not sideways
 - AI suggested is worse than it being based off your preferences
 - make sure the forecast goes on for longer than 6 hours
 - likes the hidden gem part
 - on my way function as well
 - everyone can upload photos to the plan
 - utilise dark and light colours better
 - don't use emojis, use icons, this is a hot topic
 - profile function works well
 - send invite through another app
 - they will all link to your personal calendar
 - rating of the weather out of 10

Nic app

- Definitely make an icon for the app
- There should be a separate page for the profile
- And need to be able to leave
- you cant zoom in and out on the map
- hard to understand how to see all the plans
- for the duration change it to the end and start time, and also maybe the duration
- rename hangout spots to your own personal names
- change quiet to busy
- seo
- seperate events to different weeks
- adding new friends should be sharing a link or airdrop
- change the new group to a plus
- select the group chat to invite instead of each person
- slightly less intuitive
- some things are given more importance than the others
- move where the profile actually is

User 3

Luka's app

- Made a plan
- what if the person wants to say no?
- liked the ability to send various ways

Like the hourl forecast

- what if you wanted to make an event offsite

- can we see table/seat availability?
- looked at current events and added it to plan
- looked at settings - really liked dice integration
- sleep data? - what is that for
- likes being able to add friends
- wants contacts sync

i. no option for earlier than when you're looking found upcoming plans quite easily

ii. would message to change events

iii. no feels like - is there any way the weather could be in your upcoming plans - e.g. it will be rainign when your doing x

iv. checks menu bar when not sure about where something is - wouldn't know how to do it

v. found your calender - don't like that its called events - lack of clarity around events/plans/ calendar

vi. easy to do

COlour scheme ui:

- font is easy to read
- colour scheme is fine, but could be better if the colours matched info, like things were colour coded`

Ozan's app

- The bottom text is not complete on opening page
 - would be good if you could search your course
 - easy to make an account
 - likes the weather on the app
 - likes the more imperialy colours
 - what does it do if the conditions are bad
 - suggest friends instead/below saying no one online
 - Likes the slidey wheel
 - Likes the suggested plans
 - new plans should pop up under your upcoming plans
 - degree and year didn't update to profile
 - plans didn't update either
 - not sure about badges - could make you feel bad if you're ill or during exams - so might lose a streak
 - likes the privacy settings
 - dark mode doesn't work - not bothered about it particularly
 - nice that the app integrates societies
 - would never click "im here" button
- Definitely prefers the font and colour scheme - less intuitive than Luka's app overall

TASKS:

i. took a second to find plans
likes the option to send stuff to anyone

ii. not obvious how to edit

iii. can't get future forecast
wheel kept getting in the way

v. should by default join ur own activity

vi

Nic's app

- struggled to get keyboard out the way
- "this is cool"
- why is weather only until 9pm - what if i'm out late
- likes the "feels like"
- The weather is very factual - could help describe what it will be like
- liked adding friends
- liked the icons on the bottom bar
- likes being able to add your calendar
- likes the plan selection - can't go for more than 4 hours on the slider
- likes the weather at the time of creating an event
- can't zoom in using pinch movement
- not helpful for navigating campus
- wants to actgually know what is busy and what isn't
- bit tricky to see who has requested you
- likes the use of interests
- How can you hide certain activities from different people - or does it just say you're bust - wouldn't want everyone knowing exactly what you're doing
- the app is slightly annoying - stressful
- not a massive fan of the colour scheme
- What is the interaction for responding to events - is it texting based or accept/decline - proposed something cancelled is nice
- Editing was rllly easy

TASKS:

i. clicked tmr and then had to select tmr again
Have to tap through the times isntead of being able to slide it
Would like some haptic feedback for the sliders
Make different send options more clear

Appendix 5



AI tools used in project:

Supabase backend data tables



SQL Edits

- Reload Schema via Notification
- List User Location Columns
- Add User Location Fields and Enable Realtime
- User Engagement Metrics Summary
- Recent Friendship Connections
- Application Metrics Snapshot
- Message Reactions & Chat Media Policies
- Add Messages Table to Publication
- Add group_members to Realtime Publication
- Publish chat groups changes
- Add plan_attendees to realtime publication
- Add plan_invites to Realtime Publication
- Add Plans Table to Realtime Publication
- Add users table to realtime publication
- Add custom title column to plans
- Add plan status column
- Add Tour Completion Flag
- Add Year of Study to Users
- Add Degree Column to Users
- Add profile, plan status, and user badge tables
- Enable public user search policy
- User Avatar Storage Policies
- Add messages table to realtime publication
- Add Plan End Time to Chat Groups
- Add Plan Reference to Chat Groups
- Add group_members to realtime publication
- Add chat_groups to realtime publication
- User Badges Tracking
- Fetch Sample Badges
- Disable Row Level Security on Core Tables
- Cooped Up Social & Planning Schema

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25b441e0-2a3f-4aac-8b35-9e4a6d488c1c	08db0c09-d8c0-4646-bf00-4345...	Walk at Union Bar	Union Bar	2026-05-29 14:54:00+01	friends	(temp*26,"emoj
2d228b37-ad3f-404b-88ef-f696b6bda0c6	08db0c09-d8c0-4646-bf00-4345...	Fortnite at JCR	JCR	2026-06-01 14:00:00+01	friends	(temp*22,"emoj
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68fe799-3078-4b31-b98e-c060f093a3fc	cd43ecta-bf4f-4cfc-ad90-4ffcd0...	Lunch at Dyson	Dyson	2026-06-04 12:30:00+01	friends	(temp*15,"emoj
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b49e4f7c-7748-40d1-b9c2-047ea0e287e	19bb16ab-62ae-4dc1-e9f7-62acd0...	Lunch at Queen's Lawn	Queen's Lawn	2026-06-01 14:00:00+01	friends	(temp*22,"emoj
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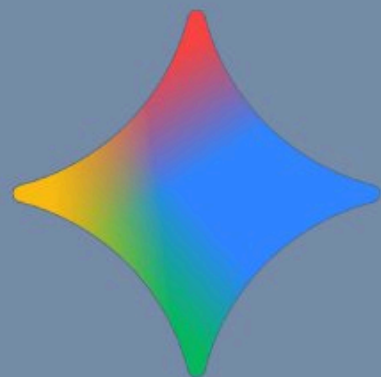
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	ead498fd-cb4a-46ed-8af2-f1730d...				Nic Elton		NE			5		TRUE		2026-05-26 11:39:07.22113+00		htg

The hatching chick logo symbolises students breaking out of the barriers created by weather and timetabling. As the chick emerges from its shell, Cooped Up helps users overcome these constraints, encouraging them to connect with friends and make the most of opportunities to socialise.

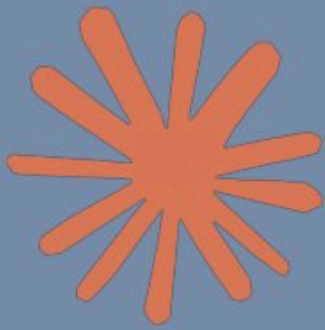
ChatGPT - V5



Gemini 3



Claude - 4.6 sonnet



Declaration of AI use:

We acknowledge the use of ChatGPT-5 (OpenAI) to rephrase writing to improve conciseness, Gemini 3 for image editing, and Claude - 4.6 sonnet to help code prototype apps. All research, analysis, insights, and ideas presented in this report are our own work.