



Year 8 'World of Work Day'

Scalby School, Scarborough

#WhatWorks

Supported by funding from **Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) Opportunities Area Fund, NYBEP** coordinated a 'World of Work Day' at Scalby School, Scarborough. The aim of the event for **205 Year 8 students** was to help them explore **how Maths, English and Science are used in the workplace**, as well as highlighting the transferable skills that employers are looking for; ultimately providing them with advice and information to **support the option choices process**.

NYBEP recruited **fifteen employers and education/training providers** from across the North Yorkshire Coast to support the event. Additionally, **Future First** (another CEC funded programme) provided school **Alumni** to engage with the students.

Pre-event preparation for Employers and Providers

Prior to the event the school provided a short brief for the employers, which contained the key messages they wanted supporters to pass on to their students. These key messages were aligned with the school's careers programme:

- 1. Everyone should focus on aiming for a strong pass in English Language, Mathematics and Science as a minimum.*
- 2. However, qualifications in these 3 subjects will not be enough to secure an interview or a college place. Most employers and colleges will expect students to have a minimum of 5 different subjects at Grade 5 and in some cases Grade 6.*
- 3. Those students who intend to study A-Levels and then apply to a quality university must aim for Grade 5 in English Language, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography and a language.*
- 4. It is important to understand the transferable skills each subject offer. This is what employers want to be able to talk about at an interview.*
- 5. Employers and colleges will ask your school for a reference. This gives the employer or college information about what type of person you are and whether you are suitable for education, training and employment.*
- 6. As well as your academic ability employers and colleges will ask about your attendance and punctuality*
- 7. Unlike school, there is no guarantee that you will be offered a place on your chosen course at college or that an employer will give you an interview. You are in competition for these places with all the young people your age in the Scarborough area.*

Pre-event preparation for students

School provided a full briefing to the Year 8 students and teaching staff prior to the event. The briefing included a list of employers/providers who would be attending and a short question sheet that students used on the day to engage with the event supporters.



Programme

The event took place across 3 lessons. The Year group was split into three groups with each group visiting the event for one hour each. The final group was intentionally smaller, and this was done to accommodate students needing more support.

Teaching staff as well as NYBEP staff were on hand to encourage the less confident students to engage with the supporters.

At the end of each session students thanked the employers.

What worked well.

- School fully prepared their students in advance and equipped them with a simple sheet that provided them with information about who was in attendance and suggestions of questions they may like to ask.
- By preparing a guidance sheet for the employers/providers supporting the event they ensured that key messages were aligned/supported the wider school careers programme.
- Students on the day fully engaged with all supporters and were polite, well behaved and enthusiastic in seeking information. NYBEP and school staff encouraged students to engage and asked them regularly what they had learnt.

Students told us:

"I am more confident about my options and what to take at sixth form."

"I like talking to the universities people cause it helped me understand how it works."

"I know more about jobs and experiences i didn't know about before."

"It helped me a lot with what i wanna choose"

- The school made the supporters feel welcome, reserving parking spaces, providing bacon sandwiches and a constant flow of tea and coffee, as well as visiting every supporter on the day to thank them.
- As recipients of CEC Opportunity Area funding, both NYBEP and Future First were able to deliver contracted outputs.
- Alumni provided by Future First enhanced the event - providing an opportunity for current learners to engage with former students of the school.

"The World of Work day provided a chance for Y8 students to talk to employers and colleges. This contact with a range of organisations clearly helped students do this about their skills and what their future might hold, as well as developed their self-confidence in understanding what opportunities are out there. The organisation of the event was such that the school, employers and colleges were fully engaged, meaning that students had an enjoyable and rewarding experience." **Richard Benstead. Dept. for Education**