

### South Cave CE Primary School

#### Event Focus

The presentation was targeted at four classes of Year 5 and 6 pupils, with a general focus of enthusing the children to believe that no matter what background, with real determination you can achieve your dreams and also to highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for most career paths. The presenter's company deliver a wide range of services, each of which require these key skills in order to be successful.

#### Communication with volunteers

Initial communication was a letter to parents at the school to see if any would be prepared to present to classes in the school although outreach had also been undertaken through local rotary clubs Stem Ambassador meetings. Each meeting was rewarded by a number of enthusiastic volunteers, who with support from their business managers, put themselves forward for the Primary Futures Initiative and signed up as volunteers. The volunteer in this case study was a parent of children at the school, who spoke regularly to large groups of adults as part of his job, and was encountering new challenges in the task of presenting to ten and eleven years olds.

#### School Organisation of our PF Events

The school, which is two form entry, decided to trial this initiative with Years 5 and 6. The volunteer decided that it would be easier for him to deliver the presentation to the two year groups separately, although the presentation would largely be the same format for both groups. Delivery was in the school upper hall as the presentation included practical activities for the children. Teachers and support staff were in attendance and assisted during the group practical activities and the preparation.

#### Our Volunteer

Our volunteer is the director and co-owner of a Chartered Surveyors and Commercial Property Consultants Company. Meetings had been held prior to the delivery of the presentation with the school's Primary Futures organisers to support with guidance of 'pitch', challenge, vocabulary, timings and activities. However there was little need to change much of the presentation, which was delivered through a Powerpoint slide show. Whilst the emphasis was on the importance of the key skills of literacy and numeracy as well as IT capabilities, the practical activities helped the children to make strong connections with their learning experiences in school and their future opportunities.

#### The Event

Despite a nervousness about presenting to children rather than the normal adult audience, our volunteer was quickly in his stride. The Powerpoint presentation gave a focus and assisted with the VAK learners. After initial explanation of career path and the importance of the key skills, the presentation moved on to the development of the company's website, the use of social media, Twitter and Facebook. Once again the children were able to relate

easily to this part of the delivery. Humour was well used by the presenter to keep the children's attention. A popular element of the presentation was the measuring challenge that our volunteer issued. At this point children were given the task measuring accurately the school hall using a folding wooden ruler; tape measure, wheel and laser. The presentation then moved on to the types of buildings that the company were involved in developing and selling and getting the children to consider what sort of working environment they would like to find themselves in when they leave school or university. Opportunities were given to the children to ask questions; which was also a productive part of the session, with the volunteer being pleasantly surprised at the range and maturity of the questions that were asked. The event was completed with a mock auction which was fun and a great success.

### **Feedback and Impact**

Feedback from the presenter expressed his initial concerns about his ability to interest and entertain a younger audience. He expressed his appreciation of the welcome given by both staff and the children and that the session passed very quickly. It gave him the opportunity to reflect on his own education and achievements and to relate this back to his days in primary school. He felt that he had been able to reinforce some of the values that teachers communicate in terms of key skills and also disciplines such as meeting deadlines and presentation. He was delighted to see the way the children engaged with the measuring exercise and that both the children and staff requested he came back to support some future practical mathematics session.

The presenter said that in spite of initial concerns he had thoroughly enjoyed the event, feeling more confident with Year 6 and that he would be happy to return to support the school with further sessions with the children.

Photographs were used to celebrate the event, both on the school website and in the newsletter. The local media will be including this event as part of their coverage of a second Primary Futures presentation later in the term.

Feedback from the children included:

"I learnt working hard now, can help you in the future".

"Everyone should have been able to have a go with the measuring equipment!"

"Using the laser was great!"

"I now want to find out about other jobs and what you need to be successful".

"I learnt that running business is really different to what I thought it was and you need lots of different abilities".

"I learnt that if you really tried at school you could do whatever you want".

"Less words, more pictures please!"

"I learnt that you can follow your dreams such as if you were young and you wanted to be a teacher, if you work hard you will probably be a teacher!"

"I learnt that people who stay in school longer have a better chance in life".

"I learnt that being able to work in teams is very important in later life".

"I learnt that it is good to be confident about yourself".

"I learnt that he really enjoys his job".

"I learnt that if you don't work hard in school, university and college; you're not very likely to get a good job".

“I learnt the average price for a house in the UK is £185,000”.

“I learnt that even as an adult you are learning all the time”.

“I learnt that if you run a business you have to be fair with staff and customers and you must never shout at customers”.

“I learnt that in business you have to be careful who you trust!

### **What would we do differently next time**

Smaller groups of children with presenter so that all are able to fully participate. Maybe a carousel with different presenters. Range of jobs with male and female presenters to assist with role models and possible break stereotyping.

There is no doubt after this experience that the Primary Futures project can make a difference in raising children’s aspirations by linking their learning in school to the future world of work. We look forward to developing this programme further in the future using the database as a basis for finding our next group of volunteers

JK

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