

Cadland Primary School - Primary Futures Pilot Project

- As part of the preparation for a visit from some volunteers I held a discussion with all Year 6 pupils about what would be their ideal job. Following a number of ideas from the pupils including archaeologist, hygienist, teacher, sign writer, nurse and of course footballer, the children were given the task of filling in an application form for their ideal job. We also had a discussion about the importance of the application form in terms of attracting attention, neatness and of course SPAG!
- The application forms were taken in and reviewed by the class teachers. Further discussions with the children were held about the range of jobs applied for.
- The children have now been prepared for a visit from seven different people who will talk to them about their jobs in a Jobs Fayre to be held in the school hall. They will be focussing on their learning in primary schools and how these basic skills helped them to progress to where they are today.
- The event will be held on 24th April. Each volunteer will talk to the children about their current job, how they got to this position and trace back their experiences to primary school. We have a Fireman, Doctor, Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher, Secretary and Engineer visiting. The link for all the volunteers is they were once pupils at Cadland Primary school. We have press released to the local newspaper and TV and encouraged our volunteers to register on the PF website.
- After the event the children will fill in another application form applying for one of the volunteers jobs which will prove interesting and hopefully inspiring..

Evaluation of Event

The event took about an hour for pupils to listen to all seven volunteers who spoke with differing levels of confidence. We initially anticipated 15 minutes for each presentation but we discovered that about 7 minutes of talking was about the right time with the children then engaging in what we found to be useful question and answer sessions. Afterwards teachers held class discussions about each of the seven volunteer presentations and pupils were able to express preferences for the sort of job they might well think about. It was very clear that many of the children had found this inspiring and had opened their eyes to possibilities and opportunities they had not previously considered. The links made between the volunteers primary school learning and their world of work was a real strength of the session. All pupils wrote thank you letters to the volunteers – a letter writing exercise that

contributed to some pupils writing portfolios for assessment purposes. This was a positive spin off.

Further Event - Stem Ambassadors meet Primary Futures

In our area we have a number of STEM Ambassadors provided by the Exxon / Mobil organisation. This is ideal as Cadland Primary sits next to the second biggest oil refinery in Europe! After useful discussions the Exxon Community Affairs lead officer provided us with 4 stem ambassadors to meet with our Y6 children. Children heard from a Cost Engineer, a Project Manager, an Inspection Engineer and a Maintenance Reliability Engineer. I was not sure how stimulating the talks would be but the volunteers spoke enthusiastically, with the children, on a range of technical and specialist insights. The children were able to try on specialist pieces of equipment that and drew inspiration from what the speakers had to say about their jobs and how their learning in primary school was so valuable. Perhaps some of those pupils may one day be inspired to take up one of the 12 areas of work they have learned about in the 2 presentations? We discovered during our pilot activities there are a number of possible ways to set up events using both the Inspiring the Future website, past pupils and local contacts from industry etc. These need encouraging to sign up as volunteers.

Finally our thanks go to all the volunteers who gave up an hour of their time to inspire young children.

D M June 2014