



MEDIA RELEASE Embargoed until: 9am Friday 5th December 2014

Primary Futures comes to Oxfordshire

On 5 December Gateway Primary School, Carterton in Oxfordshire, is taking part in a new initiative aimed at widening the horizons of primary school children. Gateway is inviting Primary Futures volunteers to visit and talk about their job. Primary Futures aims to raise aspirations and help children understand the link between learning in school and the world of work so they will be motivated to improve their academic performance.

The event has classroom insight talks with diverse volunteers taking part including; **the UK's first female RAF Air-Vice-Marshal, an Aston Martin engineer, a merchant navy captain, a chef, a prison officer, a geologist, a PepsiCo financial controller, a dermatologist, an entrepreneur, a lawyer, a publisher, a TV producer and a zoological education coordinator.**

Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Department for Education is attending and will chair a "What's my line?" activity with volunteers and pupils.

The Primary Futures project has been developed by NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers) - which has a membership of 28,500 members and represents the vast majority of primary school leaders in England – in partnership with charity the Education and Employers Taskforce.

Primary Futures is part of the highly successful *Inspiring the Future* scheme, which has already registered more than 17,500 volunteers, a growing number of primary schools and 75% of state secondary schools.

Schools Minister Lord Nash said: *"I was delighted to be able to attend the Primary Futures event at Gateway Primary School in Carterton, Oxfordshire. It is an outstanding initiative which will see thousands of people across the country helping primary pupils to see the link between what they learn in schools and what they could one day do in the workplace. Primary Futures will provide invaluable support to the work this Government is doing to build closer links between employers and schools, ensuring every child is fully prepared for life in modern Britain and to make a positive contribution to the economy in the future."*

Prime Minister, David Cameron said: *"Children who understand the link between the world of work and what they learn in school are much more likely to achieve. Primary Futures is a great nationwide initiative developed by the National Association of Head Teachers and charity the Education and Employers Taskforce. It gets people from different backgrounds doing a wide range of jobs from apprentices to CEOs, archaeologists to zoologists to volunteer an hour of their time to visit local*

schools across the country and talk to children. It's a great campaign and one that deserves the widest support. Over 18,000 people have already signed up and I encourage you to join them."

Russell Hobby, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) says:

"Primary Futures is transforming the way children connect their learning in primary school with the many opportunities that lie ahead. The project also opens up the world of work to the children - right at the age where they are beginning to develop their aspirations and ambitions. I would wholeheartedly encourage every employer to support this scheme by becoming volunteers and every school to take advantage by joining us on this exciting journey."

Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan says: *"I am delighted to support this initiative. We want schools to connect with industry and the business community in order to inspire children to consider the vast array of different opportunities available to them. Children taking part in Primary Futures will be hearing from people who do all sorts of different jobs, not just MPs. Professional people are giving their time for free to show the children that there should be no limit to what they want to do with their lives. From the likes of an illustrator for the Beano to a demolition expert and countless others, these visits will help to show children what they could achieve and that no occupation should be closed to them because of their gender. It is exciting to see schools taking the initiative in this way."*

The programme is seeking to grow its army of volunteers to meet the huge demand from schools, so if you would like to volunteer locally just register here: www.primaryfutures.org

MEDIA CONTACTS

For media enquiries please contact Carol Glover, Communications Manager, Education and Employers Taskforce on 07939 061 850 or email carol.glover@educationandemployers.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

How to register free for Primary Futures

Go to www.primaryfutures.org which takes you to the Inspiring the Future website where you can sign up. Click the orange 'register now' button in the top right corner, then click 'volunteers register here' and follow the simple steps. Primary schools in your area will then be able to see that you have volunteered and be able to invite you to visit them.

What is Primary Futures?

Primary Futures is a new free service which will see people from all sectors and professions volunteering to go into state primary schools to talk about their jobs. Everyone from CEOs to Apprentices can volunteer for *Inspiring the Future*. Volunteers and schools are connected securely online, and volunteering can take place near home or work as you specify the geographic locations that suit you. DBS (formerly known as Criminal Records Bureau checks) are not needed because a teacher will always be there to facilitate.

About NAHT

NAHT is an independent trade union and professional association with 28,500 members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Members include head teachers, deputies, assistant head teachers, bursars and school business managers. They hold leadership positions in early years, primary, special, secondary and independent schools, sixth form colleges, outdoor education centres, pupil referral units, social services establishments and other educational settings. The membership represents leaders in 85 per cent of primary, 40 per cent of secondary and virtually all special schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

About the Education and Employers Taskforce

The Education and Employers Taskforce was launched as a small independent charity in October 2009, and has 12 staff. Its aim is to ensure that every school and college has effective partnerships with employers which provide young people with the inspiration, motivation, knowledge, skills and opportunities they need to help them achieve their potential and so secure our national prosperity.

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