

St Marys High School Speed Networking

St Mary's is an 11-19 co-educational, comprehensive school with Academy Status. An extensive range of Enrichment activities is provided for students to enhance learning that has taken place in the classroom.

Introduction to the event:

The idea of the event was to help young people better understand apprenticeships. Research is consistent that young people's knowledge of apprenticeships is often limited, especially in terms of how they can best prepare themselves to get onto one when they leave education. One of the best ways to give them access to such information is to give them the chance to hear directly from people in work with first-hand experience of apprenticeships. Students involved were age 14-15 years.

How it worked

We hosted a speed networking session, multiple volunteers sat around tables with students and spoke about their experience of apprenticeships. Volunteers rotate after approximately 8 minutes so students are exposed to a range of apprenticeship jobs and sectors. Details were as follows:

- 11.30 Introduction to apprenticeships delivered by teacher and explanation of the event would run.
- 11.40 speed networking commenced
- 12.25 speed-networking finished, closing remarks and thanks to the volunteers

Evaluation

The volunteers came from a variety of backgrounds so the students got to learn about a wide variety of professions and jobs within those industry areas in a way that could not have been obtained without their input. This helped then clarify what post 16 options to take. The students behaved very well on the day. They interacted with the volunteers and raised some interesting and challenging questions. The volunteers were happy at the end of the session and enthusiastic to come back and talk to the students if possible

Feedback from the students

Students found the experience informative and has given them an insight into further opportunities available through apprenticeships.

School website

<http://www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk/>