

Charles Horsey

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Can you tell us a little bit about your job and your career journey?

I got my dream job – Engineering trainee with London Transport, these days called a Degree Apprenticeship.

What did you want to be when you grew up and why? Who inspired you?

From the earliest, I wanted to work in transport and be involved in Engineering. Later, I also wanted to work in the public sector and contribute to society.

What difference did you want to make for yourself and young people through volunteering with Inspiring the Future?

I want to tell young people that it's good to be passionate about achieving a career that's interesting, that everyone's work can make a difference to society, and that the biggest reward from a career, not least in science and engineering, is to work among like-minded people, collaborating to provide services and solutions to others.

How long have you been volunteering with Inspiring the Future?

Three and a half years.

What events and activities have you taken part in?

About 187 activities in schools: careers fairs, assemblies and talks to classes and groups, 'speed networking', mock interviews and CV guidance. Some events involve parents, overall, a wide range of student/pupil ages down to year 3. I aim to go to as many primary schools as practicable.

What would you say to other volunteers thinking of volunteering with Inspiring the Future?

Accessible, simple, worth doing. Within a week of joining, I was out in schools. Its range of supporters embraces all activities in the world of work, which I like.

Describe Inspiring the Future in five words

A priceless, life-changing experience.

What has been the strangest/funniest/best question you've been asked?

All from Primary schools:

STRANGE "Are you married?"

[in Northamptonshire]

FUNNY "It's not a steam train it's a steam engine!" [in Nottingham]

BEST "How are carriages joined together and why do train wheels have flanges?"

[Year 5 female in Coventry]

What difference do you think you've made to the lives of young people who you spoke with?

I think my stories and my messages may have been heard, even remembered, so have sown seeds, or generated ideas, or suggested new possibilities.

How have you benefited from volunteering with Inspiring the Future?

Developing communication and social skills; prompted to reflect on what I have achieved, almost without realising; maintaining a sense of personal worth.

What's the one message you feel is important to share with the young people you speak to?

People are the vital element, and the reward, in the world or work. People and society will want what you do, and the people you work with will support and encourage you and you will do the same for them. This is very true for careers in Science, Engineering and Transport and Logistics.

Who or what inspires you today and what is the reason?

Communicating positive messages about the possibilities of serving people and society in the world of work, and encouraging female and minority interest in science, Engineering, Transport and Logistics, particularly for primary and early secondary years.

What has been the best part about volunteering?

Variety – no school, no event is ever the same as another. A sense of being valued and welcomed for what I do.

I want to tell young people that it's good to be passionate about achieving a career that's interesting, that everyone's work can make a difference to society.