

Pearson

Can you tell us a little bit about your organisation?

Pearson is the world's leading learning company. We have a simple mission: to help people make more of their lives through learning. We are the UK's largest awarding body and we offer academic (Edexcel GCSE, Edexcel A level, Edexcel International GCSE) and vocational qualifications (Edexcel NVQ and BTEC from entry level to Higher National Diplomas) that are globally recognised.

What inspired your organisation to start working with Inspiring the Future?

We have a social responsibility to empower young people to achieve what is possible. Also, it is a great cause. Young people are our business, and the work Inspiring the Future started is completely aligned to our employability strategy – the importance of instilling confidence and motivation in young people entering the workplace, in addition to skills and knowledge.

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

Dive straight in! For the small gift of your time you can make the world of difference to a young person and get the benefit of a fresh perspective on what it's like to be a young person in modern Britain.

What events and activities has your organisation taken part in?

- Work experience
- Speed networking
- Interview skills training
- Mock interviews
- Human Library session
- Becoming a governor through Inspiring Governance

What has your organisation learnt from volunteering with Inspiring the Future about yourselves and about young people?

We've learned that we have a lot to offer and the skills and knowledge we take for granted are invaluable to young people. We've found out that while young people are no different to how we were when we were growing up, facing many of the same challenges around poverty, class, race, sexual preference, gender, etc, they are struggling with the pressures of living in the digital age. By engaging with them through Inspiring the Future we've been able to understand their needs better and in doing so, develop assessments and content that meet them.

What has been the best part about working with Inspiring the Future?

Taking part is a rewarding experience and a great way to directly connect with the learners we spend all our working lives thinking about.

How has your organisation benefited from volunteering with Inspiring the Future? Please give examples to skills, knowledge and behaviour.

The scores of people involved in volunteering have benefitted personally and professionally. There are so many blogs on our intranet site about the joy they had in their engagement with the young people they met and the impact it had on their day to day work – it brought them closer to our customer. In doing this we've benefitted from having a much greater understanding of our vision, strategy and goals and have found it easier to link what we do in our day to day jobs to this. It is a great reminder of why we do what we do in Pearson, to give children a chance to do well in life!

Who or what inspires your organisation today and what is the reason?

People like Malala Yousafzai who speaks from personal experience about the only way to empower people is to give them access to the best education possible.

What's the one inspirational message your organisation feel is important to share with the young people about the world of work?

You can achieve what you want if you love what you are doing and work hard.

What difference does your organisation want to make for young people through volunteering with Inspiring the Future?

Doing this can make a real difference to young people's confidence, their perceptions of what jobs are available and what different career paths look like – and can also inspire them to consider options they have never previously thought of.

How long has your organisation worked with Inspiring the Future?

Seven years.

Describe Inspiring the Future in five words

Inspiring, future focused, committed, partners and brave.

What difference do you think you've made to the lives of young people through working with Inspiring the Future?

It is so rewarding working with students who are at that point in their life when they are having to make some really important decisions. Being able to give them some sound information about employment broadens out their choices.

Any other comments you'd like to add?

Only that we're really happy and proud to be partners with Inspiring the Future and will continue to be so!

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