

Our future Derby

Initiative Introduction

Our future Derby is a partnership project designed to introduce and engage primary school children in the changing world of work to enhance awareness, broaden horizons, raise aspirations and open a world of greater possibilities to the children, their families and their teachers.

Through comprehensive engagement with the schools, teachers, parents/carers, and local businesses, along with a host of volunteers, a programme of different interactive activities is being delivered in schools to help reinforce and change long term behaviours.

Volunteer Benefits

Being an **Our future Derby** volunteer not only supports the delivery of the activity programme but also brings so many other personal benefits, such as:

- Building your own personal presentation, communication, and leadership skills
- Increasing your confidence
- Learning new people skills
- Being challenged to do something out of your comfort zone
- Having fun and giving something back to society
- Help children by opening their eyes to their future possibilities

Read here about a volunteer's experience.



Volunteer

Laura Howard

Company

East Midlands Chamber

Industry sector

International Trade

The Business

East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) is the leading business representation organisation in the East Midlands region, providing a voice for more than 4,300 member businesses. From start-up to scale-up, local to global, the Chamber is renowned across the region for enhancing its businesses and communities. It undertakes a wide range of activities on behalf of its members and the wider business community, from skills, training and digital support to lobbying, campaigning, advice and information about international trade. The Chamber's activity is so diverse and multifaceted that thousands of businesses from across the East Midlands and beyond put trust in the Chamber to help their businesses flourish and grow.

The Activity

Laura Howard is the Chamber's Head of International Trade. She signed up as a volunteer for the **Our future Derby** project as an opportunity for personal development. As a mum to two young daughters, she is also passionate about inspiring children from an early age, particularly girls, about the world of business. She took part in two **Our future Derby** volunteer training days, before visiting the Ashwood Spencer Primary School, in Allenton, to talk about her career and the opportunities it has presented.

The theme of one particular session was 'Where does my job take me?' and Laura was able to talk to children about the fact that she had the opportunity to visit China as part of a trade delegation from the East Midlands.

The Impact

Laura said: "I have a thirst for learning and always like to share my enthusiasm with young people at the very start of their pathway to careers. As a mother of two daughters I wanted to inspire women and girls in particular to reach for the stars. When asked to draw a pilot, a surgeon and a firefighter many pupils draw a white man, so anything I can do to help challenge and change those perceptions has to be a good thing. I was amazed to learn, when I spoke to children, that many already have real aspirations. So many youngsters I spoke to wanted to be police officers, doctors, lawyers and vets. My own kids also thought it was cool, me going into a school to speak just like their teachers! I got to meet some inspiring children and learn what motivates tomorrow's workforce."

Get Involved

Would you like to get involved as a volunteer from the world of work and share your work experiences with our local children? We are looking for volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds in all forms of job roles.

Find out more at: www.emc-dnl.co.uk/ourfuturederby

Or register to volunteer at: www.bit.ly/ourfuturederby

This initiative is funded through the Department for Education's Opportunity Area Board, supported by Derby City Council and delivered in partnership with :

