



Case study

Hardwick Primary's Aspiration Day

Aims:

- > Raise Aspirations
- > Help children develop their Creativity, Aiming High and Positivity skills
- > Involve all of Key Stage Two with interacting with Volunteers

Our Future Derby Programme

As part of the Derby Opportunity area DfE funding programme, the Learn by Design team joined the pupils at Hardwick Primary school, Derby; a selected primary school chosen for the Our Future Derby programme. The programme's aims are to help raise children's aspirations and open a world of greater possibilities to them, their families, and their teachers. With Learn by Design coordinating and delivering workshops and activities to the schools, this is an opportunity for children to connect with local employers and learn about the many different and diverse jobs available in Derby.

Hardwick Junior School is a three-class cohort, large inner-city school, with a diverse range of pupils. The school has many different languages spoken with a large proportion of pupils coming from EAL and/or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Planning the Day

Learn by Design worked with Hardwick Primary's Career Related Learning Champion to plan a KS2 'What's my Line' Assembly followed by an Aspirations Day for Year Five.

The event was posted on the Primary Futures Portal to secure four Career Volunteers to support the day.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER PORTAL](#)

The Volunteers included a Female Languages Translator who translates children's books from German to English, a female Analytical Polymers Chemist who works on making the plastics industry green and more sustainable, a female Charity Funding Coordinator who works from home and deals with multi-million pound contracts and a male Book Publisher who had set up his own company.

The 'What's My Line' Assembly

The four Employer Volunteers were seated at the front of the assembly and the children then had to guess each of the volunteer's careers. A prop was introduced to enhance the guessing process with an end finale where each volunteer introduced themselves and explained the career/job role they worked in. The range of jobs made for a very interesting assembly that challenged career stereotypes and included some very interesting questions and answers. The jobs all linked into the subjects and areas that the school focussed on, so this was a huge plus!

The Eight Key Skills the Our Future Derby programme focuses on were made explicit and linked to success throughout life.



Feedback from the day:

Careers Champion Feedback - *'Thank you for a fabulous day! It was lovely to see you yesterday. It was a proud moment to see how an ex Hardwick pupil is doing well. The pupils were intrigued and inspired that you were a pupil from the same school as them. This showed them that they can become anything they wish to be!'*

Languages Translator Volunteer Feedback - *'I thought the event on Wednesday was really inspiring. I've been to a few of these events and this was probably one of the best I've attended. The school were very supportive, the staff in attendance during the sessions really got into it and the group session leader from Learn by Design was excellent. Ifza really lead the session and very quickly built a rapport with the children. Her presenting and leaderships skills were clear to see! These sessions are so important to opening children's eyes to the world around them, not telling them what they should do or be in the future, but to show them: "these jobs exist, and you could do them" The games and the self-esteem activity were also great and well run.'*

Analytical Polymers Chemist Volunteer Feedback - *"I was really happy that I had volunteered for the Our Future Derby event at Hardwick. The activities were well planned out and there were a range of activities the children could participate in. Overall, they were really engaging for the children as I could see they enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot from the workshops which was evident from their questions. It really got them thinking about possible future careers they would like to do and opened their eyes. A truly fantastic experience and I'd be happy to volunteer again!*

The Y5 Aspiration Activities

Following on from the success of the Assembly, the event moved upstairs to the Year Five classrooms. Beginning with Q&A sessions with the career volunteers, it gave the Y5 children an opportunity to ask any questions that they didn't ask in the assembly and then moved onto Aspirations. The next activity focused on getting the children think about what they are proud of and why. The activity then focused on working with three of their peers to write about what they are proud of each other for.

The final activity involved the children rotating around a range of games focusing on communication, teamwork, leadership and creativity skills.

The Outcome:

Throughout the day the Volunteers added a huge amount of experience, value and helped raise aspirations.

During the assembly, they inspired the Children around some important key points:

- Learning languages can open doors and really help you in future life.
- Gender does not and should not stop anyone from achieving their goals.
- You can work from home as well as the traditional environments.

The Aspirations activities succeeded in getting the children and adults to engage in high-quality conversation around careers, aspirations, skills and qualities. It was lovely to see and hear the children complimenting both each other and the staff on areas which are not always acknowledged. The change in the Pupil's attitudes and perceptions of each other was clear to see. The children got a boost of confidence and were reminded throughout the sessions that they could be whatever they wished to be.