



ENTERPRISE ADVISER NETWORK

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION

Working Lunch Mercia School, Sheffield Inspiring future career pathways



Aim: To inspire and inform young people about a range of careers and develop communication and networking skills by allowing them the opportunity to host 'business lunches' with business volunteers from a range of industries

Event Description:

Split into two sections an informal networking lunch a formal class room session, Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to speak to range of volunteers asking questions they had prepared after reading the speakers profiles in advance, the information they gained is then used to discuss options and opportunities in the future.

Lunch and Networking

Speakers were seated for lunch with small groups of students providing a relaxed opportunity for pupils to ask questions about careers, industry and future opportunities in the speakers sector. converse. Following lunch there was a 30 minute networking session where to allow other pupils to speak to volunteers working sectors of interest to them.

Class Room Conversation

Pairs of speakers gave formal 10 minute presentations followed by time for questions to class room groups.

Event Process:

1. Prior to the session speaker profiles were used during tutorials to discuss the event with pupils and help them to consider what type of questions they might ask the speakers.
2. Short sessions on networking where held with students during tutorial time as preparations for the session.
3. Speakers were seated with small groups of students during a regular school lunch time and given the opportunity to converse with students.
4. Following lunch a 30 minute free networking session was held in the hall so that students could introduce them selves to other speakers, ask questions and practice their networking skills.
5. Speakers where split into pairs ensuring each person was from a different industry. Each pair spent 30 minutes with a tutorial class, giving a more formal presentation on their job and career path to date before answering questions.
6. Information gained from these sessions will be used as a basis for careers based discussion and activity in future tutorial sessions.

"This has made me definitely want to go to University now."

"One man I spoke to actually made something that I own! How cool is that?"

"I know what type of engineer I want to be now."

Year 7 Pupils, Mercia School, Sheffield