

Broadening pupils' understanding of careers through an employer encounter

School: St Martin's C of E (VA) Primary School

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Activity Overview

St Martin's C of E (VA) Primary School, in York & North Yorkshire Careers Hub, sought to strengthen pupils' understanding of the world of work through an employer encounter with the Royal Navy. Representatives from the Royal Navy visited the school to meet pupils in Years 5 and 6 to explore the role of the Royal Navy and the range of jobs and opportunities available. The encounter formed part of the school's wider approach to making careers a whole-school priority and embedding career-related learning (CRL) across the curriculum.

What Did Participants Say?

"This was pitched at exactly the right level for the children to understand the role of the Royal Navy and how they can make it a career."

- Year 5 teacher.

"Thank you for giving my child this opportunity to meet people from the Royal Navy. They had a great morning and haven't stopped talking about it."

- Parent.

Approach

Pupils explored the range of roles and opportunities available within the Royal Navy through videos, discussions and a Q&A session. Having both men and women lead the session helped to challenge stereotypes and show pupils that careers within the Royal Navy are available to all. Pupils were particularly surprised by the range of qualifications that can be gained through a career in the Royal Navy, as well as the breadth of opportunities available beyond their core roles, including sporting and musical opportunities.

Pupils also worked collaboratively on a practical design challenge to create a flare using a range of materials. The activity developed their teamwork, problem-solving and creativity skills, with pupils required to overcome challenges and work collaboratively to find solutions and adapt their designs.

Impact

As a result of the employer encounter, St Martin's C of E (VA) Primary School are aiming to introduce more encounters across the entire school, engaging pupils in younger years. In the classroom, pupils have begun to understand how subjects lend themselves to different careers. During lessons, teachers often talk about what they are teaching and which careers/jobs this would be useful for. The pupil's knowledge of the world of work has grown and St Martin's C of E (VA) Primary School hope that this will develop further as their CRL curriculum becomes embedded.



Top tips from the Careers Leader at St Martin's C of E (VA) Primary School

- Build plenty of time into employer encounters for questions and discussion.
- The opportunity to interact directly with employers can help pupils deepen their understanding, explore their interests and gain valuable insight into different careers and pathways.