

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Academy focus on employability
Curriculum Provision	✓	Enriching Geography scheme of work
Employer Partnerships		
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	Creative thinking about possible job roles

### Ex-pat businesswoman brings a taste of Australia into the classroom

Moor Green Primary School in Birmingham recently became part of the HTI Multi-Academy Trust. As part of a commitment to prepare young people for life after school, HTI aims to involve employers to enrich children's life experience and develop their employability. The school uses an assessment framework to encourage learning around six employability skills.

The school's themed curriculum map for year 5 students included a focus on 'Australia', with activities planned to find out about places (Geography), everyday materials (Science), dot paintings (Art), Aborigines (History) and other aspects of the country. In keeping with the HTI ethos, the school wanted to try and bring the theme 'to life' with the help of an employer.

Jane Lewes runs a training and consultancy business that has worked with many clients around the country, including businesses in Birmingham. She came forward following a circular email sent out by the chair of the local Employment & Skills Board. Jane happens to be from Australia and was soon due to visit friends and family there.

The teacher of the year 5 group wanted to use the opportunity to strengthen relationships within the classroom and worked with Jane to deliver activities, including designing recruitment posters about jobs roles distinctive to Australia and creating presentations about life in different parts of the country. Prizes included inflatable kangaroos and Jane promised to send postcards back to the class when she was in Australia.

### Impact on the students

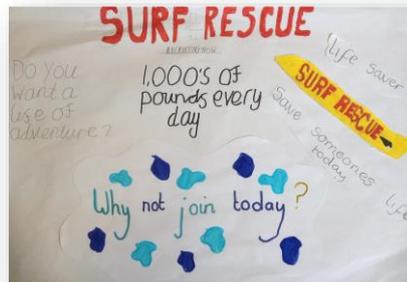
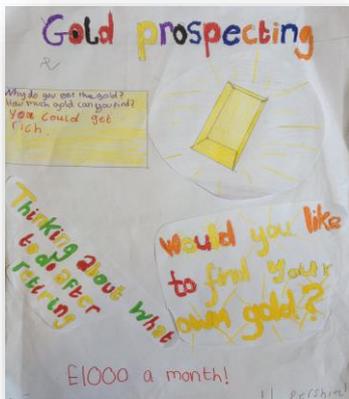
- The students were excited by having a guest in the classroom who was from Australia and who could answer questions and tell stories about the curriculum theme.
- The job roles activity helped children think beyond stereotypical career options and to consider what being in those roles would actually involve.
- Evaluations showed that children had developed skills through the activities:
  - 'I learnt you can work effectively with people even if they are not your best friends.'*
  - 'I learnt how to persuade someone that a job is a good and why they should do this job.'*
  - 'I learnt more about Australia and it sounds like a good place to live.'*
  - 'How to communicate with people you might not normally get along with.'*

### Impact on the school

- Employer support for the project added value to an existing curriculum theme and further engaged students in their classroom learning.
- Involvement of an employer in one teacher's classroom teaching reinforced other staff training about employability and skills, as part of implementing the HTI educational model.
- In this case, the guest was comfortable about working with young people and preparing training materials – and even came prepared with a word search activity.

### Impact on the business

- Jane operates as a freelance consultant and her offer to support an educational project in Birmingham was appreciated by the 14-19 team from the Council and the chair of the local Employment & Skills Board.
- Finding a local Australian business person was difficult. Discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and others raised awareness about developing employability in Primary Education.



Based on an existing curriculum theme of 'Australia' and supported by an ex-pat business guest, the class of year 5 children created recruitment posters and Powerpoint presentations – applying their learning about the country and using advice from their visitor.

