

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Workshops involving members of senior leadership teams
Curriculum Provision	✓	Developing an existing 'Aspire' programme for year 6
Employer Partnerships	✓	Engaging six employers from the immediate neighbourhood
Reflective Young People	✓	School-specific student log books and assessment process
Informed Career Choices	✓	Inspiring wider aspirations at an early stage

### Year 6 'Aspire' programme is developed for use across a cluster of Bradford primary schools

The 'Aspire' programme has been run successfully over a number of years by St Stephen's Primary School in the BD5 part of Bradford. It provides students with a Project-Based Learning activity and records learning in terms of the '4Rs' – an adapted version of the 'Building Learning Power' model.

The previous year, St Stephen's has engaged four employers to provide students with a series of purposeful challenges. This time, the objective was to recruit a similar number of local firms within walking distance from the school and to deliver the same programme in partnership with nearby St Matthew's Primary School, with a view to sharing the programme across all schools in their cluster.

Starting with a self-audit process, assistant heads from two schools identified themes for three action-focused workshops: Employer Partnerships, Student Development and Purposeful Projects. Using briefing papers and case studies to stimulate discussion, the assistant heads adapted toolkit resources to reflect their own objectives and the age of students involved in the project.

Using a letter agreed by the schools, door-to-door visits invited firms on the main road near the school to join a 'Community Partnership Opportunity'. This process took little more than an hour and resulted in offers of help from a branch of Lloyds Bank, a small graphic design company, an auto repair centre, the local Boots chemist, the senior partner from a large firm of solicitors and 'Waj's Fast Food'. These – and other contacts – will provide a basis for lasting partnerships.

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### Benefits for the Students

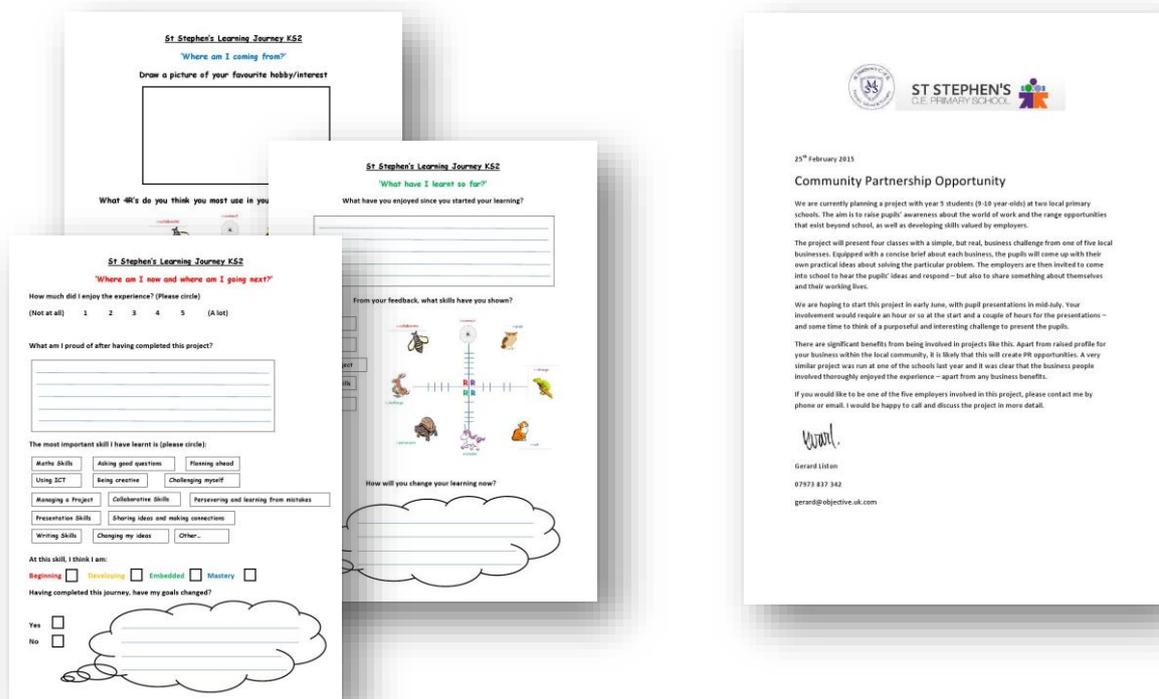
- Previously, the 'Aspire' programme has been a positive experience for students and is now eagerly anticipated by younger students as they approach year 6.
- The involvement of real employers the previous year proved to be a great motivator, with students learning about quantity surveyors, business consultants and other career paths they might not otherwise have considered.
- Involving firms from the main road that runs alongside the schools in 'BD5' means that they are already recognisable to the students and can make a lasting impression.

### Benefits for the School

- St Stephen’s is already committed to the Aspire programme and welcomed the opportunity to enhance the learning process and resources with support from another school.
- Using toolkit resources and case studies provided a basis for professional development of the school leaders and avoided starting with a blank sheet when considering changes.
- Involving senior leaders in the workshop sessions ensured that the process was given priority and could become an initiative shared across the whole cluster of schools.

### Benefits for the Employer

- The offer requesting their involvement was clearly defined and limited to an hour at the start of the project (to help set the challenge) and at the end (for the project ‘Exhibition’).
- Although motivations varied, all firms recognised that the schools were teaching children from families living in the neighbourhood, which could result in business and positive PR.
- The fact that both schools were – literally – over the road created a compelling reason for making this initial commitment – which the schools will aim to nurture and develop.



Student ‘Learning Journey’ documents developed to support the Project-Based Learning activity.

The concise letter dropped off at local employers and two of the six employers who asked to join this ‘Community Partnership Opportunity’.

