

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment		
Curriculum Provision	✓	Enriching International Primary Curriculum
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a small firm opposite the school
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	Positive role model for self-employment

Spicing up learning about international menus in primary education

Shirley Manor Primary School in Bradford uses the International Primary Curriculum. As part of this programme, year 4 students had been working on a scheme of work titled 'What's on the menu'. This involved finding out about exotic foods; where food comes from; and how long it takes to get to the shops, as well as researching how to set up a successful restaurant, including signs and menus.

The vast majority of pupils are of White British heritage and the proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is well above average and very high among some groups of students. Amjad Bashir, the owner of Cafe Zouk restaurants in Bradford, Manchester and Liverpool visited the school to share his experiences about setting up and running his business, as well as showing children some of the unusual vegetables and spices that are used to prepare food for his customers.

Year 4 teacher Gail Whitmore commented: 'We have not had a business person in the classroom before. It allows children to experience something firsthand without the need for an out-of-school visit, which is difficult and costly to arrange. Apart from bringing a new face into the classroom, an employer can tell students what it feels like to run a business because they are living and breathing it. Children get so much more from that. It enhances their learning.'

Impact on the Students:

- For most of the students, hearing stories from Mr Bashir and asking him questions allowed them to find out about a different culture from their own
- Students loved seeing, smelling and tasting the fruit and vegetables as they were passed around
- All students – including one in particular, who was normally disruptive in lessons – were fully engaged and activity involved in discussions and question/answer sessions with the guest

Impact on the School:

- The school had not previously involved business guests in classroom teaching and is now looking at getting involved with a city-wide employer programme

- The teacher involved was able to share her experiences with colleagues , encouraging them to take the 'risk' of working with employers

Impact on the Business:

- The business was able to extend its community engagement activities into an area of the city where there was little awareness about South Asian culture
- Speaking with young students about his experiences allowed Mr Bashir to encourage them to think positively about setting up a business and about the hospitality sector



Amjad Bashir brings ingredients for an Asian menu to life and shares his experiences

The visit enhanced and enriched the school's use of the International Primary Curriculum

