

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	Directly addressing part of the English Language spec
Employer Partnerships	✓	Starting an ongoing link with a community radio station
Reflective Young People	✓	Learning about, '... individual personal skills and abilities'
Informed Career Choices	✓	Informing about changing opportunities in broadcast media

Talking about the town provides content for community radio – and GCSE English

Brookfield Community School in Chesterfield had chosen six curriculum areas to create exemplar projects as part of a strategic plan to enrich subject learning in partnership with local employers. The English team set a challenge to support learning about spoken word for year 10 GCSE students:

A local radio station is interested in the views young people have of Chesterfield and has invited you to share those views with listening audiences.

You will plan, write and deliver a speech, of no more than 10 minutes, expressing what you love or loathe about living in Chesterfield as a young person. You will need use persuasive techniques to encourage your audience to agree with your viewpoint. Remember to engage your audience by making your points clear and based on evidence.

The speech will be performed in class and recorded for your Speaking and Listening Endorsement. A small number of the best recordings will then be converted to audio files and sent to S41. Jez Revell will decide which ones to include in his radio show.

Jez Revell from S41 Radio visited the school and spoke to the whole group about the station and the changing nature of broadcast media, as well as giving feedback about the students' work. He brought promotional gifts and offered work experience and other ways for students to get involved.

Benefits for the Students

- *'I've definitely learned how to speak more clearly and speak more confidently and with passion, because it was about the town'*
- *'I paid the same amount of attention and done the same amount of work, but perhaps there was that extra bit because it could go on the radio and you want to do the best you can'*
- *'I was flattered because, out of everyone in the year, I didn't think I'd be picked because there are so many clever people who are passionate about the town'*
- *'It's better. It's a different opinion than my teacher's. They don't work on the radio'*
- *'If we were just having a normal day of school, we get taught all the things we get taught and we never go over stuff to do with outside of school, apart from further education'*
- *'... confidence presenting my presentation in front of my class and presenting it without stuttering too much but I still have a long way to go'*

Benefits for the School

- The project prepared students for the GCSE English Language requirement to, *'... undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic no more than ten minutes ... formal but may take a wide variety of forms'*
- S41 Radio is growing in popularity in Chesterfield and, having worked with the school on this project, the directors expressed interest in promoting student musical talent and school events, as well as offering work experience placements

Benefits for the Employer

- *'We're looking for material that lives up to our tag, 'It's all about town' ... everything that makes Chesterfield what it is and this fits with education and the youngsters'*
- *'Just to see what's in their minds about the town. It's very interesting, because they see things in a different light at that age'*
- *'This is what people want to know, to hear from youngsters; their opinions, their views. It's good quality content for the station'*
- *'We got to meet them all ... we want to get a couple up to the radio station, get a couple of shows going and get them all involved'*

GCSE English: Spoken Word



I'm Jez Revell and I am a director and presenter in S41 Radio. We want you to create some stories to broadcast.



S41 Radio is a fast-growing community station for Chesterfield. GCSE English Language students were challenged to create a 10 minute presentation, with the best six being recorded and sent to the station. Two radio presenters visited to provide feedback and announce the work they liked best.