

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Supporting a whole school commitment to '5R' skills
Curriculum Provision	✓	Contributing to PSHE learning outcomes
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a successful and expanding local SME
Reflective Young People	✓	Developing aspirations, as well as employability skills
Informed Career Choices	✓	Challenging stereotypes about Construction and SMEs

### Local SME seeks fresh ideas from year 8 students for plans to expand into a new market

Highfields School in Matlock, Derbyshire was looking to develop a 'Learn 2 Learn' programme as part of its PSHE provision for year 8, aiming to, *'Reinforce the employability skills which are delivered through our school's 5R system: Reasoning, Reflective, Responsible, Resilient, Resourceful'*. The ideal outcome was described as, *'Working on a project with a business in the local community'*.

MVIS Ltd is located a mile from the school and has won awards for their business success and innovative use of technology, which is used for their solar-powered visual information displays – most often seen around motorway road works.

The company, which has a workforce of 15 and a strong commitment to apprenticeships, is promoting use of its display technology to promote safety for workers on building sites. The year 8 students were set the challenge of researching safety issues in the construction industry and learning about the capabilities of the technology before proposing possible safety notices.

The research pack included a launch message, Powerpoint slides, short video clips, briefings about job roles and links to industry websites. The winning group came up with the message, *'Don't try to be cool. Wear a hard hat you fool!'*, which was recreated on one of the MVIS displays when the general manager gave feedback at an end-of-project assembly, saying she, *'... thought young workers on site would buy in to this. We were also extremely impressed with the girls' confidence when delivering the pitch.'*

### Benefits for the Students

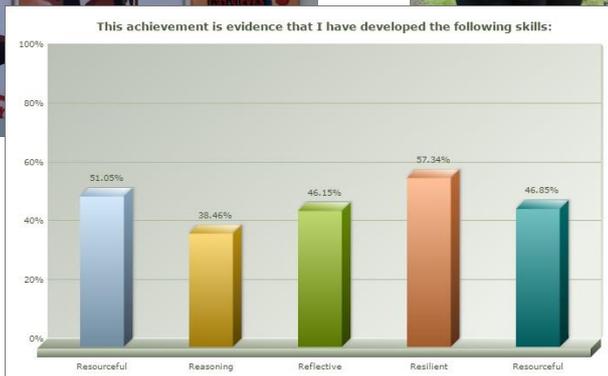
- *'Working as a group and coming up with ideas, which was really good'*
- *'... that our idea made everyone in the room have a smile on their faces ...'*
- *'... I helped the group a lot and put a lot of effort into it'*
- *'I learned what you would have to do to do good in interviews with the presentation work'*
- *'I was able to stand up and pitch in front of the class'*

### Benefits for the School

- Several people currently working at MVIS are ex-students of the school
- MVIS shows there are successful, expanding employers in a small town like Matlock
- The project reinforced the whole-school commitment to developing the '5R' skills
- The employer has offered work experience and other partnership support
- Being so close to MVIS makes ongoing partnership working easy and natural

### Benefits for the Employer

- Involvement in the project had an impact on a whole year group of students
- MVIS could promote their apprenticeship opportunities to local young people
- Young people came up with creative and potentially viable business ideas
- The project provided the basis of a PR story for local and trade publications
- The format of the project made it easy for an SME with 15 staff to be involved



The PSHE project generated fresh ideas for a local SME business and complemented the school's strategic commitment to skills development, based on the '5Rs'