

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a curriculum programme by a large academy trust
Curriculum Provision	✓	Year 7 maths: Generalised Arithmetic
Employer Partnerships	✓	Part of an initiative to promote Allied Health Professions
Reflective Young People	✓	Developing 'Creativity' and 'Staying Positive'
Informed Career Choices	✓	Broadening understanding about careers in the NHS

Year 7 use maths skills to calculate the value of Occupational Therapy

A brief from AET curriculum team for maths suggested two topics in the year 7 learning programme, hoping to '... avoid the abstract that is often seen here'. One of these was a unit about 'Generalised Arithmetic' that focuses on, '... developing fluency in the manipulation of number.'

As part of an initiative with Health Education England, the Royal College of Occupational Therapists agreed to co-create a purposeful task for the year 7 students that would require them to apply maths skills to calculate the value of treatment compared with the cost of therapy. They created three client case studies describing the situations of an elderly client living at home, a six-year-old child with autism and bricklayer who had sustained a work injury. Each case study included a section, 'What did the occupational therapist do?' and the students were asked: 'Using your calculations and 'infographics' or drawings, explain why an occupational therapist can save money in the long-term, as well as improving the quality of people's lives.'

The classroom resources included a series of short, video clips recorded informally by practitioners in the workplace, talking positively about their role. Students had been told that, 'Examples of your work will be sent to a therapist for feedback', which took the form of another short informal video message congratulating the students on their involvement and selecting two pieces for particular praise. In their subsequent self-evaluation, students indicated they found the project purposeful and it had helped them 'Learn about opportunities after I leave school' and 'Think about my personal choices and future direction'.

Benefits for the Students

The achievement I am most proud of as a result of this experience is:

- 'Doing an infographic for the first time.'
- 'Creating a successful poster.'
- 'Learning new skills.'
- 'I learnt about what happens in life individually and if you have partners to help you with things.'
- 'Learning about my personal choices and future direction.'
- 'To discover what is possible.'

Benefits for the School

- Bexleyheath Academy was the first of the schools in the multi-academy trust to use the project resources, which are being shared with maths teams in other schools.
- During development of the classroom resources, feedback from the trust’s curriculum team stated, *‘This is looking really good and a great interdisciplinary learning task too! I think the maths level is fine, all of the numbers are totally workable for this age group and the mechanics of the calculations will be fine.’*

Benefits for the Employer

- The classroom resources can be used more widely to help the NHS promote careers in Occupational Therapy; one of 14 Allied Health Professions.
- The project helped to show that Occupational Therapists have an important role in helping people to get their lives back, reducing demand placed on the NHS and the benefits system. But it can be difficult to quantify the economic benefit of this health profession.

Helping Peter to stay at home

Cost of help

- One x 1 hour home visit: £27 per hour
- One x 20 minute phone call: £12
- One x 15 minute telephone consultation with the care home: £10
- 2 hours x 15 minute telephone consultations with Margaret: £30
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Cost savings

Community profiling fee: £150

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Year 7 students chose one of three case studies provided by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists to calculate the value of treatment compared with the cost of therapy, summarising this in an infographic.

Students knew that examples of their work would be sent for expert feedback, which was received from the College’s Professional Adviser for Children, Young People and Families.

5 SIMPLE STEPS TO IMPROVED WELL BEING

Occupational Therapy - OT

- 1 RECOGNISE THAT YOU NEED HELP**
- 2 ASKING FOR HELP**
- 3 FOCUS ON DOING SOMETHING YOU LIKE**
- 4 YOU ARE NOT ALONE**
- 5 WIN WIN**

SARAH'S STORY

money spending

More call

Workshop

Administration

Sarah's teachers

