

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	One of a series focusing on 'dry' Science topics
Employer Partnerships	✓	A new link with an important local part of the NHS
Reflective Young People	✓	Particularly developing 'personal skills and abilities'
Informed Career Choices	✓	Raising awareness about roles in the NHS

### GCSE Biology topic helps a local medical centre communicate facts about type 2 diabetes

Tupton Hall School in Chesterfield asked the Science faculty to identify five curriculum topics that would provide a basis for staff development, showing how employers can bring 'dry' topics to life in the classroom.

As part of their GCSE studies, students need to be able to describe the principles of hormonal coordination and control by the human endocrine system. This includes learning about the role of the pancreas and the causes of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. A PowerPoint presentation was prepared for use in the classroom to explain this, but also the huge cost to the NHS of treating Type 2 diabetes, which can largely be prevented through changes in exercise, diet and smoking habits. This was accompanied by additional material from the NHS and Diabetes UK that students could use for further research.

The practice nurse from a local medical centre recorded a short message to the students explaining what they are doing to both treat and prevent type 2 diabetes, including using a display board in the waiting room. She reviewed students' PowerPoint presentations on the topic and selected the work that had applied classroom learning and further research accurately, but also communicated the message clearly and effectively. This was used to replace the existing waiting room display.

### Benefits for the Students

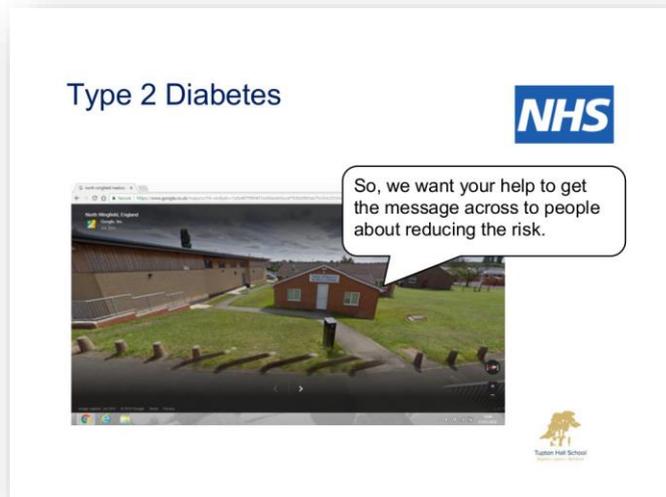
- *'It's more challenging ...'*
- *'We get to do our own research, rather than being told what it is ... more independent'*
- *'It's more pressure to get the answers right so we can provide the right information'*
- *'It makes us look more at the important things that we really need to get across and make it stand out, so people can change'*
- *'It's easier to take part in. You can be creative and the idea that it's going to be used makes you take it more seriously'*
- *'I am proud of having raised awareness about diabetes'*
- *'I am proud of possibly making something that will be seen by others'*

### Benefits for the School

- All five Science projects involved topics that had been described as 'dry'. The projects are exemplars for all teaching staff to see how classroom learning can be brought 'to life'
- Impact assessment showed that virtually all students enjoyed the experience and that it particularly helped them to develop their personal skills and abilities
- The school had not previously worked with this local medical centre, which extends the variety of its partnerships with local employers

### Benefits for the Employer

- Busy clinics meant that the practice nurse could not make time to visit the school, but a short, informal video clip enabled her to engage the year 10 students
- *'... great to have a community diabetes display from the students. I particularly like the one from Lucy, Abi & Alex as it gets the message across the facts regarding prevention and treatment'*



Type 2 diabetes is a growing issue in communities around the country, but the risks can be reduced if people make some lifestyle changes.

The Practice Nurse at a nearby medical centre explained how big a problem it has become in the local community and asked students to combine knowledge learned in Biology lessons with additional information she provided.

Students created PowerPoint slides and the work that was both accurate and communicated information most clearly was displayed in the patient waiting room.

