

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	Understanding about set texts from English literature
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a local community food bank charity
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	Increasing awareness about volunteering roles

Local food bank enables GCSE English students to write about current social conditions

In their bid for funding support, Pingle Academy in South Derbyshire stated, *'We are in need of a sustained and regular approach to CEIAG and our students need it to be embedded into their lessons.'* One of six curriculum projects developed by the school involved year 10 students studying Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' and JB Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' – specifically the need for students to discover that issues of poverty and health remain issues today, in spite of advances in society.

The teacher's brief specifically aimed for, *'Knowledge about how writers' ideas relate to current issues that will matter to the students and affect their life and work – linked to political ideas'*.

Referring to a recent news story about the increase in food bank charity, a manager from nearby Ashby Food Bank described their work in the community. This includes information about people who use the charity and their circumstances, as well as describing the work of many volunteers who help to carry out the work.

Students were asked to produce a persuasive piece of writing, to passionately argue a point of view about the work of Ashby Food Bank, with convincing reasons and evidence. Their work was displayed within the school to raise interest in the local charity and used by the food bank to show their effective engagement with local young people.

Benefits for the Students

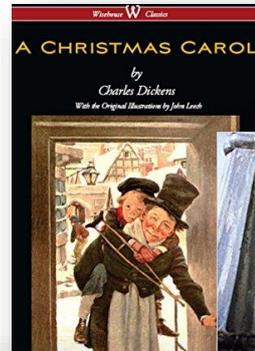
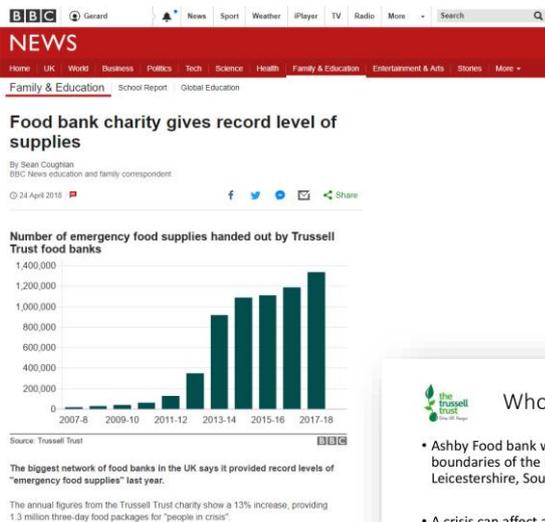
- *'I found out how common it is to be in poverty'*
- *'You can write about it in an exam because you realise how serious and real it is to still be going on today. You don't hear much about it. I didn't think it was as common as it is'*
- *'It needs to be talked about more so people can realise that they need to help out'*
- *'It feels more real. It is happening, it's not just happened before. And it's in our local area, so there's a chance it could be you and you can put yourself in the situation, so you can answer the question'* (About the persuasive writing task)

Benefits for the School

- 'Pupils are required to show understanding of the themes relevant to a reader from the time of writing and to a modern reader/audience who still find the themes relevant today, e.g. how shocking that an advanced civilised society still have families struggling to feed their children, due to lack of resources ... Pupils have to produce a persuasive piece of writing, to passionately argue a point of view, with convincing reasons and evidence. This could easily be linked to the food bank for raising awareness'

Benefits for the Employer

- Initial discussions with Ashby Food Bank were met with a positive response. One of the board members also happened to work in the school and she was able to brief students
- Raising awareness with year 10 students about the food bank's work in the community would inevitably result in informed discussions with parents and friends
- The persuasive writing produced by the students is a useful resource to communicate the encourage support from local people, using the words of local young people



Who uses Food banks?

- Ashby Food bank was established to support people living within the boundaries of the National Forest including North West Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and South Staffordshire
- A crisis can affect anyone. Your neighbours, friends and families
- Clients range from the homeless to Company Directors

Students reading texts by Dickens and JB Priestley as part of their GCSE English studies were introduced to the work of local food bank. They were then challenged to write about current social conditions in a way that the authors described social conditions in past times.