Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	**Part of an academy group series of pilot projects**
Curriculum Provision	✓	**Helping year 10/11 students with revision about Databases**
Employer Partnerships	✓	**Making effective use of a corporate volunteering programme**
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	**Raising awareness about career roles using Computing skills**

'Mini-Masterclass' video clips help GCSE students with revision about Databases

The Farnborough Academy in Nottingham, part of the Trent Academies group, has combined Computing and Business Studies into a single faculty. The GCSE specification requires students to learn about concepts of databases, database management systems (DBMS) and relational databases. Students are provided with a revision work book and other resources on a VLE, although teaching staff acknowledge it can be difficult to make the topic engaging for students.

Experian is a leading global information services company, providing data and analytical tools to clients around the world. The organisation employs approximately 17,000 people in 37 countries and one of its operational headquarters is in Nottingham. The company encourages staff to undertake volunteering in the community as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility strategy.

A request submitted through this programme identified a 'Data Manipulation Specialist' who was willing to be recorded speaking on a series of topics about databases. He was able to speak informally and without much preparation, using examples from the business and from his own career experience.

The video clips were embedded in the VLE to enhance other learning and revision material, complementing a revision work book prepared by one of the teaching staff.

Benefits for the Students

- *'The biggest benefit is putting the idea of a database into context and their value in the world of work. It's quite an abstract concept to deliver when just theory.'*
- *'Each section of the spec that is covered more or less has a relevant video. The pupils can work through the revision, watch a supporting video, and then try an exam question. That would be far more engaging and interesting than just a work book.'*

Benefits for the School

- Experian is a major local employer and the company's involvement helped to highlight the professional roles open to people with Computing and Database skills.
- This project was led by the Head of Computing & Business, who now recognises that Experian can potentially enhance and enrich learning across many different topics.
- The process for submitting future applications for volunteer staff from Experian's CSR programme can now be used by other departments across the Trent Academies Group.

Benefits for the Employer

- Volunteering roles can often involve community projects that neither promote the company's business activity nor utilise the skills and knowledge of staff.
- In this case, the data manipulation specialist was able to talk informally about the curriculum topic - including examples – without the need for time-consuming preparation.
- Raising awareness about job opportunities in information services is likely to encourage young people to consider career paths in this sector.

Dave Lee
Data Manipulation Specialist, Experian

A volunteer request to Nottingham-based global information services company Experian resulted in a series of informal, short video clips by a database expert. He addressed topics that students needed to learn and revise about Databases as part of the GCSE curriculum.

Experian