

Meaningful Learning Experiences

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| Strategic Commitment | ✓ | Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme |
| Curriculum Provision | ✓ | Contributing to fieldwork activity about a GCSE topic |
| Employer Partnerships | ✓ | The organisation seeks ways to reach young people |
| Reflective Young People | ✓ | Teamwork activity helped develop 'Cooperative' skills |
| Informed Career Choices | ✓ | Students learned about jobs and volunteering roles |

Challenge from Canal & River Trust about pollution adds purpose to Geography field work

The Geography team at George Spencer Academy in Nottingham identified two topics it wished to bring to life in partnership with external organisations. One involved a section in the GCSE specification requiring students to learn about, *'... one case study to cover the geomorphic processes operating at difference scales and how they are influenced by geology and climate, landforms associated with your case study, and how human activity, including management works in combination with geomorphic processes to affect the landscape'*.

The teacher brief stated, *'River landscapes and management can be difficult for students to appreciate in terms of change, as physically they change of hundreds of thousands of years, and management is not always apparent or dynamic, yet river management is a vital cog in protecting human settlements.'*

Working with The Canal and River Trust allowed a purposeful challenge to be incorporated into field work on the River Trent and the students' workbooks. The challenge, which focused on raising awareness about the causes of pollution, was introduced in a classroom session, with the help of the Trust's head of education. The project concluded with students presenting their fieldwork findings and proposals to the same guest from The Canal & River Trust.

Impact data showed that students found the project both enjoyable and interesting and particularly developed 'Cooperative' employability skills, probably due to this being a team activity.

Benefits for the Students

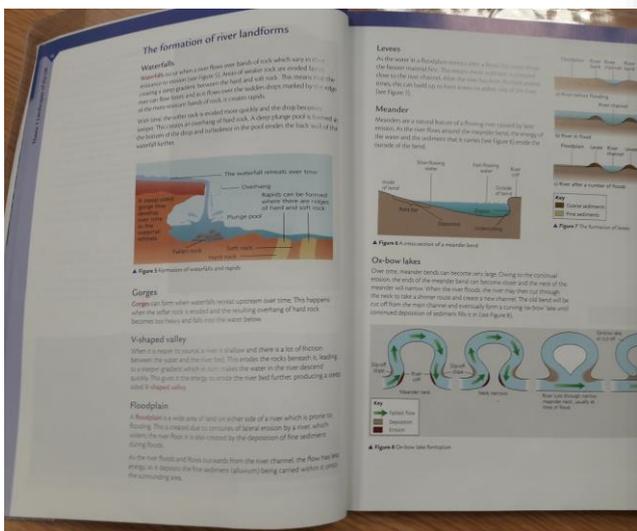
- Proud of: *'How the project was completed and how people said they liked ours the best'*
- Proud of: *'Being able to confidently conduct tests to find out about the course of a river'*
- *'Our PowerPoint and research was among the best in the class, so we got to present to the Canal and River Trust visitor'*
- *'I am able to work with others better and I learnt a lot about measuring and collecting results in topics in Geography'*

Benefits for the School

- The project contributes to a whole school 'Grow Succeed Aspire' strategy
- Impact assessment included using the school's own 10-skills framework
- *'I like the idea of an opening quiz that is transferrable for other projects [The Canal and River Trust] will do with other schools. We can hopefully investigate the pollutants from farming in the river on our first trip and then look for signs on our second trip too, so this should tie in nicely to our fieldwork.'*

Benefits for the Employer

- The Canal and River Trust has a number of education programmes aimed at engaging young people, mostly at primary schools. This project provided an opportunity to develop resources to enrich learning in GCSE Geography, possibly for other secondary schools
- Presentations and ideas from the students, as well as joint working with the school, provided material that could be the basis of PR and other publicity by the trust, raising awareness about safe and enjoyable use of the spaces they look after



Landscapes of the UK and careers in Geography

Geography is a subject that opens many doors in terms of future opportunities, but these opportunities do not always seem apparent.



This project is one of the first of its kind at GSA aimed at allowing students to practice career skills within their everyday school subjects.



Projects like this will allow you to develop skills needed to impress employers, and provide opportunities to understand some of the types of jobs available upon leaving education.

During this project, you will be completing fieldwork as you would usually do to meet the needs of the GCSE course.

Some of the information you will collect will be used to solve a problem posed by the Canal and River Trust. You will create a presentation in working teams, and a select few of these will be presented by you, back to the Canal and River Trust.

Part of the GCSE curriculum requires students to investigate a case study about river landscapes and management. Textbook content and theory was brought to life by introducing a real challenge from The Canal & River Trust into planned fieldwork. Students prepared presentations and proposals for a guest from the Trust based their findings about river pollution.