

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	Addressing a topic in the AQA course specification
Employer Partnerships	✓	Mutually beneficial and very local
Reflective Young People	✓	Including self-assessment of skills development
Informed Career Choices	✓	Widening perspectives about Health Service roles

Post-16 students create eye-catching display for patient waiting area at nearby medical centre

Brookfield Community School in Chesterfield had chosen six curriculum areas to create exemplar projects as part of a strategic plan to enrich subject learning in partnership with local employers. Teachers for an A2 group of Health & Social Care students had identified a unit about 'Food and Fitness', indicating that involving an external organisation would enable students to, '*... have a deeper understanding due to investigating a real-life situation and issue*' and '*Improved responses to exam questions on these topics*'.

Chatsworth Road Medical Centre is located a two minute walk down the road from the school, so was an ideal partner for the project. Digital displays in the waiting area provide information for patients about health issues, so they were open to the idea of young people creating eye-catching and accurate material that would encourage healthy lifestyles.

Having received a written invitation from the medical centre, students initially met with the practice manager and one of the general practitioners, who explained how the practice operates and the importance of good communication with patients. The students then worked together on a series of slides for the digital display and presented these at a second meeting with two doctors from the practice and a representative of the Patient Participation Group. This feedback resulted in minor amendments and the addition of the school logo before students were invited again to see their work on display.

Benefits for the Students

- *'It gives you an experience of not being in the classroom, so you get to interact with different people ... You're not just sat there listening to your teacher'*
- *'It's a different surrounding. It's more interesting.'*
- *'I feel like it's a chance to widen our knowledge to real life ... It gives us a chance to experience a lot more than just a classroom'*
- *'It's quite challenging, but I think it's going to be good for our confidence ... It's exciting'*
- *... you get to be practical and hands-on, so you learn it better'*

Benefits for the School

- The project is one of a series involving a range of curriculum subjects that will support subsequent staff development activity
- The location of the external partner meant that arranging a series of visits for the small group of post-16 students was not difficult
- Involving the practice manager and Patient Participation Group presented students with a wider view of roles in the Health Service than only medical practitioners

Benefits for the Employer

- Chatsworth Road Medical Centre is a busy health centre with 7 GPs and 3 practice nurses that is keen to encourage healthy lifestyles within the local community
- The letter to students proposed, ‘... you produce up to 8-10 slides to be played on our health channel about the benefits of regular exercise, including how exercise helps to prevent and regulate particular illnesses’
- Engaging a group of media-savvy young people with an interest in health care gave the practice a chance to refresh content on their digital information system



The nearby medical centre challenged a small group of post-16 Health & Social Care students to create an eye-catching and informative display for the digital channel in the waiting area. The project motivated students about an important part of the course specification.