

## Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of an academy group series of pilot projects
Curriculum Provision	✓	Addressing specific learning outcomes in BTEC course
Employer Partnerships	✓	Creating a new link with a local SME business
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	Encouraging consideration about future career paths

### Recruitment specialist brings reality to BTEC module on 'Work Experience in Sport'

The PE Department at Arnold Hill Academy agreed to be part of the Academy Trust's pilot work to embed employer links within curriculum learning. The team identified a module being delivered with 13 post-16 students studying for a BTEC National in Sports and Exercise Sciences. The module required students to, '*...acquire an understanding of how to prepare application documents and develop their interview skills in order to maximise their potential*'.

Elizabeth Michael, a recruitment agency that has operated in the centre of Nottingham for 25 years, agreed to provide expert guidance for the students. They sent a set of briefing documents normally used to help their clients write CVs and prepare for interviews. The classroom teacher adapted these to suit the student needs, telling the students that their CVs would be reviewed by the Managing Director of Elizabeth Michael, as well as by herself.

In spite of being unwell at the time, the MD kept his promise to meet the students, bringing their CVs with him. He spent some time explaining the harsh realities of the recruitment process and provided constructive feedback about the CVs. He also spent time going round the class, talking with students about their career aspirations. Many of the students in this group were not planning to go to Higher Education and so were keen to hear from an expert about work opportunities. In some cases, the MD offered specific information about local employers who were planning to recruit apprentices or specific sectors that were developing in the Nottingham area.

### Benefits for the Students

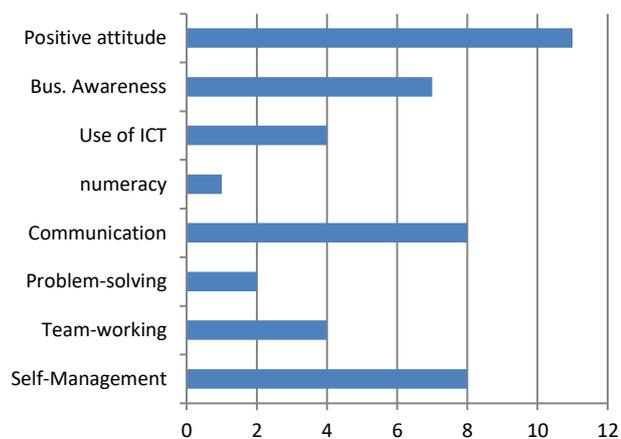
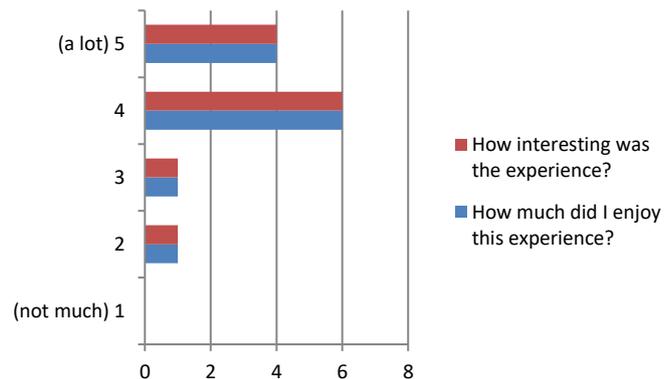
- *'Learning about the different opportunities there were'*
- *'Improved CV and clearer vision of the future'*
- *'Confidence going into interviews'*
- *'The way I can now set my CV, which will give me more chance to get a job'*
- *'Learning what is available when I leave and how I would go about applying for jobs'*
- *'I feel more motivated'*

### Benefits for the School

- 'The standard of CVs that the pupils produced to send away to Elizabeth Michael were much improved. This was due to making it 'real'.'
- 'I hope to repeat this again next year with the current year 12 students. It would be great if we could see John twice – once for a masterclass and then a few weeks later with feedback on the work the students have done on the CVs.'

### Benefits for the Employer

- 'They are Nottingham's future workforce. I think it's important that we help and support when we can – and make a difference'
- 'If I swan out now, I'd be left thinking, 'What became of it? Did it make a difference''
- 'It matters – It genuinely matters. I got a real sense that, at the end of the hour, everyone was buying-in to what we were talking about'



Evaluations completed by students not only confirmed they were motivated by the experience, but identified the skills developed in the process – particularly positive attitude.