

Education & Employers News – November 2015

Welcome to our new format e-newsletter which we will be publishing three times a year. For the very latest news on the work of the Education and Employers charity, please follow us on twitter @Edu_Employers or subscribe to our free research e-bulletin click [here](#).

Inspiring the Future: connecting volunteers and schools nationally

Hundreds of thousands of young people engaging with employee volunteers through our free, national, online match-making service

Inspiring the Future has completed its third year and has become commonplace in British schools and colleges. We now have 8,900 teachers from more than 5,000 state schools and colleges (including 80% of English secondary schools) and 25,000 volunteers signed across the UK. Teachers have sent over 100,000 invitations to individual volunteers. Over the last three years, pupils have connected with volunteers on over 825,000 occasions to overwhelmingly positive effect.

Among our most popular volunteers are 7,000 offering CV advice and mock-interviews to students, 4,000 who can talk to pupils about Apprenticeships and more than 2,500 who can speak about how they use (23 different) Modern Foreign Languages at work.

We have just produced a short clip, which, for the first time shows how Inspiring the Future and the match making technology work - [see how it works here](#). For all our pictures and video clips see [photos](#) and [videos](#).

To find out more about how Inspiring the Future is making a difference to young people's lives, please read Anthony Mann's [blog](#).

Inspiring Women campaign: challenging gender stereotyping

Our most recent themed event was [Inspiring Women in Music](#) – singers to sound engineers – took place at the Royal Albert Hall in September. Career speed networkers included: '60s pop icon Sandie Shaw, Radio DJ Sara Cox, Kanya King, CEO and Founder of MOBO and BBC broadcaster Katie Derham. For more details about the **Inspiring Women campaign**, please see our [blog](#).

Primary Futures: bringing learning to life

Primary Futures in partnership with the National Association of Head Teachers and the Medical Schools Council has recently launched the '[Who's in Health?](#)' campaign to get thousands of volunteers from all roles in the health sector talking with primary school and special school pupils about their jobs and how they use **science, maths and literacy** in their career. The idea is to bring learning to life, raise aspirations and awareness of the huge range of jobs in the health sector and that it's not just 'doctors and nurses'.

As part of the campaign Dr Ruth Hussey, Chief Medical Officer for Wales, visited Tredegarville C.I.W.primary school – details [here](#) - and the Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland Dr Michael McBride visited Tor Bank Primary Special School in the Dundonald area of Belfast – details [here](#). The Scottish Chief Medical Officer will be visiting a school in Edinburgh in December.

New developments through Inspiring the Future

A) Find your old school

We have just completed a major upgrade to the match-making software following feedback from teachers and volunteers. As a volunteer, you can now find your old state primary or secondary school/college through Inspiring the Future and indicate if you are willing to go back and talk to current students – and schools can search for former pupils. Introduced in the summer, more than 4,000 volunteers have already stepped forward, willing to connect with current pupils at their old schools. Simply log on here: <http://www.inspiringthefuture.org/>

B) Governors

Ever thought of becoming a school governor? One of our big innovations this year has been to make it easy for volunteers to flag to local schools and colleges that they are interested in finding out more about being a school governor. Online matching is now available via Inspiring the Future with interested volunteers being approached by local schools for initial discussions about what's involved - details [here](#).

We are working with the Department for Education and the charity SGOSS Governors for School to increase the recruitment of school governors and fill much needed vacancies across the county. SGOSS Governors for Schools, one of our partner organisations can also help match you with a school – details [here](#). It is part of the Inspiring Governors Alliance whose partners include National Governors Association, CBI, Academy Ambassadors Network and NCOGS which aims to celebrate the valuable role played by school governors and encourage more people to volunteer as governors. For more details please see the Inspiring Governors Alliance website: <http://www.inspiringgovernors.org/>

Campaign News: Coastal Towns campaign

The Department for Transport's Lord Ahmad visited three schools in Scarborough – [Scarborough school visits](#) - as part of the soft launch of our national campaign designed to raise and broaden the aspirations of our young people in disadvantaged coastal towns. Many will be familiar with the problems facing young people in disadvantaged coastal towns – poor attainment, low aspirations, high unemployment and a sense of marginalisation. We need to take action to ensure that young people growing up in these areas get the best possible start in life, aware of the breadth of opportunities available and are encouraged and supported in their ambitions. Do please get in touch if you are interested in being involved in a series of events which will be taking place around the country: enquiries@educationandemployers.org

Research

We bring together leading academics, analysts, policy makers and practitioners to share learning and work collaboratively to build the evidence base on what, if anything, happens when employers

engage with schools to support pupil learning and progression ultimately into the world of work. As well as publishing our own reports we also have produced a free searchable on-line library and regularly hosts events by the OECD and other educational organisations to help build understanding of research findings. Details [here](#).

Our latest **publications focus on the question of how** schools and employers can best work together to benefit young people:

[*The 'Employer Engagement Cycle' in Secondary Education: analysing the testimonies of young British adults*](#)

[*What do recruiters think about today's young people? Insights from four focus groups*](#)

And you can keep in touch about research by subscribing to our free e-bulletin [here](#) .

International

The Charity has received considerable international interest in our research, Inspiring the Future and the Inspiring Women campaign. Over recent years, we have responded to invitations to speak in Australia, Canada, the United States, Italy, Denmark, Cyprus, Belgium and Italy. Enquiries have come from over 35 countries as diverse as the Australia, Bangladesh, China, Spain, the UAE, United States and Zambia. We are currently considering how to respond to this interest, share our technology and practical experience of launching free programmes for schools in the UK – please see our [International page](#).

Forthcoming

We are currently working on a number of projects with a range of partners – work tasters / job shadowing, experiences of the world of work for pupils with Special Education Needs, wide-ranging Inspiring Women themed events, raising pupil understanding of Apprenticeships and professions in healthcare and a number of other sectors, an Inspiring the Future Design & Craft campaign, further technical enhancement to the match-making technology, identifying teenage indicators of future labour market success and a major international research conference in the summer of 2016. We are also working closely with partners in a number of countries who are keen to roll out Inspiring the Future and its Inspiring Women Campaign. If you would like to get involved do please get in touch enquiries@educationandemployers.org 020 7566 4880

And finally

A very big thanks to all those who support the work of our small charity (14 staff) through the time they give or financial support they provide such as Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the key strategic partner of Inspiring the Future.

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Education and Employers Taskforce
Challoner House
19-21 Clerkenwell Close
London, England EC1R 0RR
UK

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

