Inspiring the Future
The First Year: 2012 – 2013
Review
The quick, easy and free way for schools and employers to work together

For further information contact:
enquiries@inspiringthefuture.org
0203 206 0510
@Edu_employer

Bal Choda from Aston Martin giving an Inspiring the Future talk at William Morris Sixth Form in Hammersmith
A revolutionary model for connecting schools and employers

Inspiring the Future was launched July 2012 at Bishop Challoner’s School in Tower Hamlets with Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and over 100 employers.

What is Inspiring the Future?

Inspiring the Future (ITF) is a free service which sees people from all sectors and professions volunteering to visit local state schools and colleges to talk about their job, career path and the education route they took.

Everyone from CEOs to 18 year old apprentices can volunteer for Inspiring the Future. From architects to zoologists, whatever the job, it can be of interest to school pupils.

Volunteers and schools are connected securely online, and volunteering can take place from anywhere.

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Why Inspiring the Future is different:

• Secure, online platform to connect teachers and volunteers
• Free of charge to teachers, volunteers and employers
• Developed in partnership with schools and employers – informed by latest robust research
• Teachers are the customers – who better than teaching professionals to understand the needs of young people
• Just in time – through ITF teachers can access volunteers when they need them
• By using cutting edge technology to match schools and volunteers, the charity’s running costs are very low

How schools and colleges can connect with volunteers

Career insight talks

Volunteer to Inspire the Future in your local school or college

Recent graduates, school leavers and people in the early stages of their career can be inspirational to teenagers – being close in age, they are easy to relate to, while senior and recently retired staff have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share. Volunteering for Inspiring the Future is free, easy, effective and fun.

Volunteers can select other specialist areas, for example:

Apprenticeships – current and former apprentices talking with young people in school and college about what an apprenticeship is and how you apply for one.

Enterprise – employees from SMEs and social enterprises talking with young people about working for or starting their own small business.

Modern Foreign Languages – people talking about how they use languages in their job.

Maths in the workplace - all jobs require use of maths or mathematical thinking (often without realising it). Volunteers demonstrating the everyday importance of numeracy helps young people value development of maths skills vital to maximise their potential in work and life.

Help with CVs and interview practice

Many young people the first time they get proper feedback on their CVs or interview techniques is when they first apply for jobs and find out just how hard it can be to get into work.

Research shows that CV advice and interview practice sessions are effective in helping young people to develop skills which will be essential to later job hunting.

CV and interview advice helps young people to reflect on what they are studying and how well they are doing in relation to prospective careers. Teachers testify that they really do make a difference and can even improve attainment by bringing home the reality of what the modern jobs market demands.

Jayne Talbot, teacher at Ninestiles School in Birmingham uses Inspiring the Future to find volunteers to do mock interviews and CV workshops, she says: “Working with employers to produce a CV that may get them an interview for work experience or college is really useful to our students as most do not have large family networks or people to support them that come from a business environment. Our work related learning programme develops students through a range of activities, practice interviews helps students develop confidence and learn more about what employers are looking for in terms of skills and qualities and how to “sell themselves”. We value the feedback that employers give to help our students.”

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Inspiring the Future – massive demand from schools and colleges

Inspiring the Future is gaining ever greater momentum, with the spread of state schools, colleges and employers expanding every day. Out of 3,600 secondary schools and colleges in England more than half have already signed up for Inspiring the Future and we are delighted that this free scheme is supported by all the main employer and education bodies.

Top 10 most ‘in demand’ ITF volunteers

• Social Media/Enterprise Social Network Consultant, Capgemini
• Microbiology Laboratory Manager, Imperial College NHS Trust
• Community Engagement Manager, BAM Construct
• Clinical Senior Lecturer Rheumatology and General Medicine, Imperial College
• Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Office
• Publisher, Profile Books
• Entrepreneur, SupaTuck
• Technical Evangelist, Microsoft
• Investment Banker, Standard Chartered Bank
• Assistant Product Manager, L’Oreal

Why it makes a difference?

There is now compelling evidence that where young people gain insights into the world of work whilst still at school, they can expect to do better in their later working lives. Analysis published this year shows that the greater the number of times young people come into contact with employers, the greater their career talk, work experience, workplace visits and other activities, the less likely they are to be NEET and the more they are likely to earn than comparable peers. And the effects are striking: wage premiums of up to 18% are found. New research also helps us understand why such small elements of a school life can have such big effects. It is becoming clear that a great many young people have a very limited understanding of the range of jobs which might suit their interests and how to make sure they have a good chance of getting into chosen careers. Too many young people are choosing courses after the age of 16 which prepare them for vocations with limited career openings. In the UK, we have a number of longitudinal studies which follow young people from birth into adulthood regularly, collecting data about their lives and experiences. We now know from these studies that teenagers who were confused or unrealistic about their future aspirations at age 16 are significantly less likely to do as well as peers after they leave education – they are more likely to experience unemployment and can expect to earn less. And this is why careers-focused employer contacts, which are at the heart of Inspiring the Future, are so important. They give young people easy and quick ways to access information about jobs and careers and help children see that different career paths exist.

Volunteer Selina Yanksen, from Work Wisdom Coaching says:

“Exposure to professionals through Inspiring the Future, who can translate their energy and passion about what they do into practical insights and guidance, is one of the most powerful ways in which schools can foster the enthusiasm of their students and genuinely raise their career aspirations.”

Gladys Lawson, Microbiologist and volunteer says: “I like being an Inspiring the Future volunteer because I believe that it is one way that we as adults can make a difference to children. Not every child has encouraging parents and if I can go into a school and encourage a child to fulfil their potential and hopefully impart some of my knowledge to a child then I think I have made a difference. My mother always told me to work hard, believe and never give up - I tell my children the same thing today. I truly believe that if a child can perceive that they have a good future and believe that all things are possible if they work hard then they will one day achieve their full potential. I talk to children about working in Microbiology management because that is what I do; there are so many adults out there in various professions who I think should volunteer and make a difference - the children are our future and who knows, you may go into a school and impart your knowledge to a child and not only change their life - you might actually save their life.”

Inspiring the Future “teacher of the year”

The teacher who has been the most frequent user of Inspiring the Future over the last year is Fiona Carne, Deputy Coordinator PSHE, Head of Careers, Littleover Community School in Derbyshire. Fiona says: “Inspiring the Future has proved to be an invaluable way to connect schools quickly and easily to keen and knowledgeable employers who are committed to enhancing careers education and the experiences of the world of work for young people.”

Rigorous and robust research informs Inspiring the Future

The Taskforce has a strong focus on research. Our research team looks at the impact and delivery of employer engagement. We undertake original research to add knowledge in this area, working in collaboration with experts in the UK and internationally.

Free resources are available online:

Research bulletin
Our e-bulletins disseminate the most recent events and research findings to over 800 interested stakeholders which include policy makers, practitioners, academics and researchers. This is free to sign up to.

Research library
Our searchable library holds the most up-to-date materials on employer engagement, school-to-work transition and related subjects. This includes recent Taskforce publications, for example: It’s who you meet: Why employer contacts at school make a difference to the employment prospects of young adults. Our website also includes summaries of key literature in the area.

Research seminars
We run monthly free research seminars sharing the most recent findings from experts in the field. Recent seminars have been given by leading experts in school-to-work transitions, Professor Ingrid Schoon and Dr Nancy Hoffman. The seminar presentations are downloadable from our website where previous seminars can also be viewed for free.

Annual conference
The Third Taskforce Research Conference takes place on 23 January 2014. The conference explores themes related to employment engagement at all stages of education and work-related learning. Our keynote speakers are Andreas Schleicher, Deputy Director for Education and Skills, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Alison Wolf, The Sir Roy Griffiths Professor of Public Sector Management, King’s College, University of London.

For more information about Taskforce Research visit: www.educationandemployers.org/research

Firefighter / Watch Manager
I’ve worked for the London Fire Brigade since April 1990 as a firefighter and am currently temporarily promoted to the role of Watch Manager in Fire Safety Regulation.

Mechanic
I am a self-employed mechanic, specialising in the repair of Rolls-Royce and Bentley Motor Cars. I have 44 years experience.
How it works

Only 1 hour per year

Volunteers

Schools and Colleges

Sign up to find volunteers willing to visit your school or college

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

I've just received an invitation from a school to a careers event

I really enjoyed meeting young people and talking to them

That’s made me think of the different options open to me...

After the careers talk

To: ............

Would you like to attend a careers fair at ...?

From: ............

Decide which volunteers to invite, e.g.

- Graphic Designer
- Apprentice Engineer
- Nurse
- Architect
- Chef

 Send them a message

I can talk about...

I took the following career route...

I work in Birmingham

Town Planner

I am a Town Planner for a multi-disciplinary company. I am responsible for undertaking site appraisals to analyse the future of sites, preparing and submitting planning applications and liaising with a variety of Councils, clients and wider stakeholders.

Diplomatic Service Officer

I'm a negotiator, a diplomat, and work to get the best deal for Britain. I've served in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for over 10 years and have worked in Turkey, Afghanistan, the United Nations, the European Union and for The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

Advanced Apprentice

I do computer application development and web application development. Also, being an apprentice, I have to have regular meetings with other apprentices and review how the programme is going and also do some small competitive projects.

Artist and theatre designer

I am a painter who has also spent over 40 years designing production for the theatre. I have undertaken other design work and also worked as a photographer in the theatre.

Entrepreneur

I am a state school educated former Investment Banker (Mergers and Acquisitions at UBS) who set up one of the UK's few successful biotech companies, Stabilitech, whose technology allows vaccines to work at room temperature.

Airline Captain

I have worked in the aviation industry all my life. I trained in the Royal Air Force and I have served with three major international airlines in UK and abroad. I am responsible for the training and integration of all crew under my command.

Who is volunteering for Inspiring the Future

- Adventure Journalist
- Administration Assistant
- Aerospace Engineer
- Apprentice Engineer
- Apprentice in Live Events and Promotions
- Apprentice IT Consultant
- Architect
- Assistant Librarian
- Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Assistant Private Secretary to Leader of the House of Lords
- Brand Specialist
- Bridge Designer
- Broadcast Journalist
- Building Services Mechanical Design Engineer
- Business Intelligence Specialist
- Buyer
- Cabin Crew
- Carpenter
- Court Clerk
- Customer Adviser
- Customer Service Assistant
- Chef
- Chemical Engineer
- Chief Executive
- Chief Creative Director
- Chief Medical Officer
- Concrete Designer
- Curator
- Detective Sergeant
- Demolition Consultant
- Dentist
- Director of Political and Social Research
- Director of Strategy & Public Relations
- Economist
- Editor
- Electrical Engineer
- Environmental Consultant
- Executive Chef
- Executive Creative Director
In the last year

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Inspiring the Future: the employer’s perspective

Navdeep Hear, Ministry of Justice (MOJ) ITF volunteer in Walsall:

Jill Nock, teacher at Aldridge School in Walsall, contacted solicitor Navdeep because she wanted to run a series of events for Year 10 students (aged 14-15) to make them more clued up about jobs and career options. It’s a large secondary school with six Year 10 form groups so their teachers wanted them all to have the same opportunity to hear from Navdeep about working in the field of courts and criminal justice. Therefore Navdeep has undertaken six presentations at the school.

She starts each presentation by talking about her work at the MOJ and the huge array of opportunities. Navdeep is a qualified solicitor but there are jobs in the Court Service that do not require a degree. She is quick to emphasise that her own transition into paid work was without a degree because she wanted to run a series of presentations at the school.

She also talks to students about personal presentation and the importance of getting into the habit of delivering targets on time, whether school essays or projects in adult life.

Thirty-three year old Navdeep says: “When I was at school I was given no direction and didn’t know what questions to ask because I had no idea what job I wanted to do. I would have really benefited from Inspiring the Future.”

Top tips for other Inspiring the Future volunteers

• Have an honest conversation with pupils
• Engage pupils in a two-way conversation
• Give pupils ideas on how to get work experience in your field
• Be flexible with times and dates

Jill Nock, Work Experience and Work Related Learning Co-ordinator, at Aldridge School in Walsall says: “Navdeep’s Inspiring the Future visits have provided our Year 10 students with an insight into legal jobs and career paths. It has helped to make our young people aware of what opportunities lie beyond school life and to help them make choices along the way.”

David Pollard, Chair of the Federation of Small Business (FSB) Education, skills and business support policy committee, says:

“The FSB encourages its members to get involved with their local school and college as much as possible and wherever possible. We believe that contact with local businesses can help improve the employability skills of young people, but more importantly it helps to educate and inspire young people. By showing them the career opportunities in our advanced economy it inspires them to pursue interesting and exciting careers and at the same time motivates them to work towards the qualifications they will need to make their dream a reality.

We know that some members do find it hard to know how to get involved and the Inspiring the Future programme is an excellent way for small businesses to engage. Not only does it help businesses make the connection with a local school that wants to work with the business community, but it also provides a clear and understandable way of doing so. Small businesses can find it hard to know what a contribution from them should look like. This programme helps to focus the business on what they can do to help and how they can start small with a short talk on their business and then, as their confidence and understanding grows, move onto company visits and offering work experience. Our national magazine for members recently ran a feature promoting the benefits of small businesses working with their local schools, which promoted Inspiring the Future as an easy way to start the process. The research that the Education and Employers Taskforce undertakes is also an important tool, informing the debate about what support schools need from the business community and how this can benefit young people. With recent changes to government policy in this area, a continued analysis of the impact will be crucial.”

Kim Thorneycroft, Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency says:

“We are determined that every young person who puts their faith in an apprenticeship finds this helps them to be more confident in work and prepares them for a good future. Volunteering programme Inspiring the Future is a great way for current and past apprentices to share their experiences with school age students aged 11 – 18, by helping them to decide if an apprenticeship can help them secure their career ambitions.”
What the political party leaders say

Prime Minister, David Cameron says: “We need to get more of our business leaders and entrepreneurs into our schools to help inspire young people. I’m hugely enthusiastic about this programme. We need employers from a broad variety of sectors - from construction to catering, from retail to real estate - to get involved and help young people to realise their potential and give them the drive to succeed. Youth unemployment has held our country back for far too long, and this is a vitally important area we cannot afford to ignore. We need to help young people get the jobs on which their future, and ours, depends - not only to help get the country’s economy back on track, but to change the lives of these youngsters who have so much potential. By placing professionals from all sectors in state schools and colleges, inspiring the Future is doing just that.”

Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister says: “Too many young people get the message that the best jobs are not for them. Inspiring the Future will give state school students the chance to see, hear and make a connection with someone in a career or job they might not have thought about. We’re calling on doctors, nurses, lawyers, builders, civil servants, farmers, mechanics, engineers and other working people to give up just an hour of their time to talk to students in their local state school about how they got where they are today. The power of making connections that inspire young people is immeasurable and can be life-changing – the difference between going on to fulfil your potential, and languishing on the scrapheap.”

Ed Miliband, Labour Party Leader says: “I believe in a society where every single person has a route to a career, whether they go to university or not. That is an ambitious aspiration, but Labour must always be ambitious for this country. The first step to making this ambition a reality is making sure that young people know about what careers are out there and what they need to do to find a route into them. Inspiring the Future allows schools to connect with employee volunteers, so that young people can be inspired to take a path they might not have known about before. This is important for all young people, but especially for the most disadvantaged, where family networks are often limited. I wish Inspiring the Future every success.”

What business leaders say

Sir Roger Carr, President CBI 2011 – 2013, says: “Inspiring the Future has the strong support of the CBI because it is a primary means of giving young people real insight into the growing range of jobs which are available and how they can best prepare themselves for them. Inspiring the Future is free, easy and, for the first time, allows national volunteering schemes with education. The business case is strong, and I would urge all employers to sign up and encourage their staff to volunteer.”

Alex Wilmot-Sitwell, President for Europe and Emerging Markets (ex-Asia) at Bank of America Merrill Lynch says: “The world of work is rapidly changing and young people in the UK need to be prepared for future opportunities by having the right employment skills. Research shows how important the sharing of job expertise is in helping to provide them with the information they need to make the right career choices. Through our support of Inspiring the Future, we are connecting thousands of students across the country with business people including our own employees, helping to develop young peoples’ confidence, aspirations and employability. It is undisputed that educating the next generation is essential to achieving economic growth and building strong communities.”

How schools see it

“Young people today have a far greater range of choices when leaving school or college than ever before. They can choose from a very wide range of further and higher education courses, undertake an apprenticeship or a traineeship. High levels of youth unemployment and the cost of higher education mean that making the right decision is more important than ever, and many find it complex and confusing. We need to ensure that all young people have access to the best possible information as they make decisions about their futures. Teachers and careers professionals recognise this and where it is quick, easy and low cost for them to bring working people into schools, they will do so with enthusiasm. Inspiring the Future has our strong support because it works so well for teachers. Teachers were heavily involved in the initial design – and it shows!”

We welcome too the continuing expansion of Inspiring the Future, allowing teaching staff easy access to volunteers across the country able to help young people with their CVs, interview practice and now reading partners and reading mentors. Inspiring the Future is a primary means of giving young people real insight into the growing range of jobs which are available and how they can best prepare themselves for them. Inspiring the Future is free, easy and, for the first time, allows national volunteering schemes with education. The business case is strong, and I would urge all employers to take the simple step and encourage their staff to take part in Inspiring the Future – it is a small ask that makes a big difference.”

Russell Hobby, General Secretary, National Association of Head Teachers

Brian Lightman, General Secretary, Association of School and Colleges Leaders

A Year in Numbers

July 2012 - June 2013

3,000 teachers from 2,000 state schools and colleges

With 6,000 volunteers that ran events for 99,400 young people

84% of teachers would recommend Inspiring the Future to a colleague or friend

93% of volunteers said they would recommend the service to a colleague or friend

1 in 3 volunteers had never volunteered in schools before joining ITF
Inspiring the Future was developed and is managed by the Education and Employers Taskforce charity. Founded in 2009, the mission of the Charity is to ‘ensure that every school and college has an effective partnership with employers to provide its young people with the inspiration, motivation, knowledge, skills and opportunities they need to help them achieve their potential and so to secure the UK’s future prosperity’.

The Charity works to achieve this by working in close partnership with leading national bodies representing schools, colleges and employers. More than forty stakeholder organisations contributed to the design of Inspiring the Future.

Our Partnership Board

Association of Colleges - Martin Doel, Chief Executive
Association of School and College Leaders - Brian Lightman, General Secretary
Association of Teachers and Lecturers - Dr Mary Bousted, General Secretary
Business in the Community - Faye Ramson, Director of Education
British Chambers of Commerce - John Wastnage, Senior Policy Advisor
CBI - Neil Carberry, Director for Employment & Skills
CIPD - Katerina Rudiger - Head of Skills and Policy Campaigns
Federation of Small Business - John Walker, National Chairman
NAHT - Russell Hobby, General Secretary
NASUWT - Chris Keates, General Secretary
National Apprenticeship Service - Mandy Crawford-Lee, Apprenticeship Development Manager
National Careers Service - Joe Billington, Director
National Children’s Bureau - Dr Hilary Emery, Chief Executive
National Governors Association - Emma Knights, Chief Executive
NUT - Christine Blower, General Secretary
SGOSS, Liz McSheehy, Chief Executive
STEMNET - Kirsten Bodley, Chief Executive
Teach First – James Westhead, Executive Director of External Relations
Teaching Awards - Sophie Byatt, Managing Director
TSL Education - Louise Rogers, Chief Executive
Trades Union Congress - Tom Wilson, Director of UnionLearn
UKCES - Dr Deirdre Hughes OBE, Commissioner

Our Trustees

Rod Brdlov, President of Pearson UK
Will Butler-Adams, Managing Director, Brompton Bicycle Ltd
Sir William Castell LVO - Chairman, Wellcome Trust
David Cruickshank - Chair of the Trustees, Chairman, Deloitte LLP
Peter Dart - Director, WPP plc
Terry Duddy - Chief Executive, Home Retail Group
Robert Peston - BBC Business Editor and founder of Speakers for Schools
Don Robert - Chief Executive, Experian plc
Prof Sir Steve Smith - The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Exeter University
Christine Sydenham, Headteacher, Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls
Richard Thornhill - Executive Headteacher, Loughborough Federation

Inspiring the Future is supported by