



## **Recent business links supporting students with special educational needs**

- My Voice London actively engages employers who are able to support students with special educational needs
- We can arrange workplace visits for groups and employer visits into school to help prepare young people for the world of work by raising awareness of career choices and employer expectations, as well as by developing self-confidence and communication skills
- As a teacher in a local special school has observed 'One hands-on opportunity is so much better than all the theory!'

## **Read on for details of our work with**

Pizza Hut, Merton Abbey Mills: Workplace visit by Cricket Green School

Tesco, New Malden: Workplace visit by St. Ann's School

EnterpriseMouchel and BSC: Hazard awareness presentation

Historic Royal Palaces - Hampton Court: Investigating jobs in action

### **Pizza Hut, Merton Abbey Mills: Workplace visit by Cricket Green School**

As part of World of Work Week Yr 10 students visited Pizza Hut for a behind the scenes view of their favourite restaurant in order to identify distinct roles in the workplace and gain a sense of how they contribute to the catering operation.

Restaurant staff introduced small groups to the whole pizza-making process. The visit covered everything from delivery of goods to serving the food, a tour of the kitchen and preparation areas, stores, oven and walk-in fridge. Students had the chance to see and use equipment and utensils, and were able to compare manual washing up and dishwasher areas. Information posters used as staff reminders, including those about health and safety, were drawn to students' attention.

In the restaurant itself groups had the opportunity to investigate the use of tills, electronic placing of orders, the on-screen plan of the dining area, and table numbering system. The grand finale was to sample the food which students had prepared earlier in their tour. This made for a truly interactive 'hands-on' visit that helped reinforce many valuable lessons from the world of work and incorporated much that students could aspire to doing as young people.

### **Tesco, New Malden: Workplace visit by St. Ann's School**

Students with profound and multiple learning difficulties made a workplace visit to Tesco, New Malden in order to meet employees from various departments, carrying out a number of different roles. Not only did this help to build on the students existing knowledge of how a supermarket works but quite deliberately provided opportunities for them to meet people unfamiliar to them and to practice their communication skills. There was the chance for hands-on experience of some specific tasks and equipment, including tills and scanners and the use of pricing and labelling equipment.

Their tour was carefully planned to be rich in sensory experiences and included a visit to the bakery with its characteristic smell and warmth. Access behind-the-scenes included being able to experience the cold temperature inside a refrigeration room. Students were able to examine some foodstuffs from the store – watching the filleting of some fish from the wet fish counter made a particular impression on the students and provided some vivid memories. Well matched to the group's needs, it was described by the link teacher as 'a great visit'.

### **EnterpriseMouchel and BSC: Hazard awareness presentation**

Integrated highways services company, EnterpriseMouchel undertakes road maintenance and improvement for Transport for London, which has piloted a joint initiative for schools with British Safety Council (BSC). Students aged 14-19 can gain the nationally recognised BSC Entry Level Award in Workplace Hazard Awareness aimed at keeping young people healthy and safe on work experience and at work.

EnterpriseMouchel brought to Cricket Green School an informative and engaging presentation based around displays, set up on the school field, which highlighted controlled hazards including trips, slips, safe storage of liquids and safe working practices. Students were asked to spot the hazards and helped to identify their relevance to home, school and workplace.

Aspects of electrical safety were covered, as was the role of protective clothing and footwear, with high visibility vests for students to try on. The specialised electric vehicle used on the highways became a temporary classroom and backdrop for displaying large photos of the maintenance work that's central to the company's role. Paper-based activities were available to reinforce learning. With the presentation as a practical introduction Cricket Green is now embarking on tailoring the WHAC programme to suit its students' needs.

## **Historic Royal Palaces - Hampton Court: Investigating jobs in action**

13 students from Cricket Green School visited Hampton Court Palace to explore five of the different job roles that exist within a major visitor attraction. They spent short sessions in the ticket office, gardens and shop, as well as with Warders and with custody (security) staff. The Palace's own Education Department had prepared a booklet for students to complete during their visit, which helped to focus attention and prompt questions to the employees they met.

The day provided a wealth of opportunity for students to practise appropriate communication skills with adults who were not already known to them and to try visualising themselves in some of the roles investigated. Several students returned from the trip having strongly identified with and wanting to work as security officers.

The link teacher comments 'So good to see jobs in action and hear the employer's side of the case'.