

60 Minute Mentor 2016 Summary

To date the 60 Minute Mentor programme has hosted sessions in seven schools, one college and the Southend Job Centre Plus. Five of these schools have had multiple sessions and the programme is continuing to expand into two new primary schools in the next academic year. Regular sessions are planned in Earls Hall Primary School, Eastwood Junior School, South Essex College and St Nicholas School (tbc) from September onwards.

Students have shown to really engage with the programme, 93% of students which have completed our session surveys said that they would attend another session and 81% of students said they enjoyed the sessions. This level of satisfaction is likely down to the quality of mentors recruited with 81% of students ranking the speaker a 4 or 5 out of a possible 5 (1 being poor and 5 being excellent). The following statements from teachers and students highlight student engagement and school satisfaction.

Ally Thomas – SEEC Head of Travel and Tourism Teacher “The students loved this session. The talk was so informative and inspiring showing the students that they could start their own business with hard work and motivation. They loved doing the scenario on the leaking roof that actually happened at the guest house”.

Ally Thomas – SEEC Head of Travel and Tourism Teacher “This session was brilliant. Feedback from the students was great and some of them now really see their local town in a different light. Scott was very professional and gave the students an insight into different jobs that they maybe hadn’t previously considered.”

Nick Dunn– Eastwood Academy Teacher “Thank you for organising today and please pass on my thanks to the M&S team. I found the presentation very informative and I’m sure it had the Year 10 audience thinking about their futures. I would be great if you could let me know the feedback you received today and I would also really like to get more involved with M&S for future projects between us “.

St Bernards Student “The presentation had interesting facts about Southend I didn’t previously know and it has increased my interest to stay and work in Southend”.

South Essex College ICT & Gaming Student “It was good to hear about apprenticeships in detail and it is nice to know other options besides university”.

The programme has successfully recruited 28 mentors to date from the local business community. All mentors have enjoyed helping the programme with 13 mentors keen to complete multiple sessions. The following quotes highlight what mentors can gain from the experience including; employers gaining a better understanding of the next working generation or a way to give back to the community.

Garry Lowen – Gleneagles Guesthouse “60 MM has enabled me to understand the aspiration of students today which is key for me as an employer to understand. I hope I have showed students that if you work hard and take risks then you can achieve your dreams”.

Luke Stillwell – 07Heaven “being able to assist young children in anyway during a difficult time where a lot of pressure is placed on them on important decisions. For the students, I hope, it gives them an honest insight to a different journey to reaching the goals that I have set out. Think them getting as many different perspectives will help them make informed decisions for themselves that hopefully will help them in the workplace and outside”.

Natalie Scarsbrook- Blatella Films “It was a real pleasure, I’m glad that you and the students enjoyed it. They were asking some great questions and it was brilliant that the teachers were getting involved as well”.

Pierre Craddock – Country Wide “Thank you for the opportunity to present to your candidates yesterday. I hope that it was well received and that hopefully we can do it again. I certainly valued the experience and hope would welcome an invitation again to present to more applicants and candidates that you feel may benefit from the presentation”.