



Making a Difference

St Matthew's CofE Primary School



Background

St Matthew's is a small primary school in Westnewton, near Wigton, comprising of 58 pupils. The school didn't really have any links with local businesses before getting involved with the Primary Business Partnership (PBP).

They have taken part in Animal Me sessions and a live online discussion about people who work with animals, and they have also taken part in the Centre for Leadership Performance's Bright Stars campaign.

They have spent the last year taking part in PBP's new scheme SkillsBlox. Pupils involved are taken on a developmental journey to build their confidence and develop their skills. SkillsBlox promotes active learning, through reflection, and develops skills and knowledge and brings the children's learning to life. Each school taking is allocated a SkillsBlox Advisor to help deliver some of the activities and find local volunteers. St Matthew's was supported by the wonderful Nicola Myers, local entrepreneur and owner of the Fruit and Veg Box Company.



Good leader
Team player



Adaptable
to change



Curious &
imaginative



Good
communicator



Good use of
information



Good problem
solver



Full of ideas





Benefits

Benefits for the pupils

- Broadened horizons.
- Helped gain additional knowledge for the future.
- Children reflecting and thinking about their own future opportunities.
- Children heard about other opportunities and employment outside of their own experiences.

Benefits for the school

- The school is starting to relate current learning to future opportunities through day-to-day teaching.



Testimonials

How did you find working with PBP?

“The Careers Week worked really well for our pupils as they were able to ask lots of questions and find out more about a range of jobs in the local area. It was also really good for them to find out about jobs that they had not considered e.g. an engineer. It was also great to see some of the stereotypes challenged for example, female fire fighters as well as males.”

Helen Harrison | Head Teacher at St Matthew's

Would you encourage others to get involved, and if so why?

“Our pupils really enjoyed the Careers Week. They loved the opportunity to meet local people from a range of careers and ask them about aspects of their job. It has resulted in discussions between our pupils about possible careers that they want to pursue in future! Thank you!”

Helen Harrison | Head Teacher at St Matthew's

“Giving local young people the opportunity to see new skills and careers this week has been a welcomed break from running my business. If I have inspired even just one young person then I am very happy!”

Nicola Myers | The Fruit and Veg Box company