



Opening Doors to the Future at The Polesworth School

Careers Fair by Razia Satti, Raising
Aspirations and Careers Advisor

On Friday 24th April, we opened our doors to industry professionals and academia as part of our whole school careers related learning programme to inspire and raise aspirations. The Careers Fair at the

Polesworth School was a huge success with 1500 students actively engaged. The Careers Fair had three main strands of delivery which were the marketplace, construction and subject specific/industry talks.

The marketplace consisted of a range of FE Colleges, Universities and employers who provided technical, graduate routes Post-16 and post-18 and interactive stalls from the NHS, BBV/HS2 including Rodbaston Campus animals.

The second strand was a focus on the construction industry in our gravel car park with simulators, diggers and a range of other construction industry tools and Impact Vehicle Protection Equipment undertaking demonstrations. Our students and staff actively participated with the demonstrations. The third strand of the Careers Fair was a focus on industry and subject specific talks from universities and employers, highlighting the degree apprenticeship routes into HE and employment as well as medical and sustainable career talks. This approach of having simultaneous micro events within the whole school careers fair enabled an immersive and a tangible experience for our students making it a meaningful encounter for them with employers, FE, universities and industry professionals alike.

Student, parent and colleague feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. A highlight being from one parent who shared that all three of her children came home *'inspired for the future...there were many cool places to go.'*

Employer Feedback -

Just wanted to drop you a note to say thanks for a great event last week, it was well organised, and we really enjoyed the engagement from the students. Thank you, and thanks for taking care of us on the day, especially the coffees.

Colleague feedback included -

The event ran so smoothly, the exhibitors that I spoke to were clearly impressed, and the students I spoke to were speaking so highly of the event, that it was lovely to see and hear. Commenting specifically on the range of exhibitors, that they enjoyed the interactive nature of some stands, and that the exhibitors were really friendly and welcoming, which made it less "scary to ask questions"....

*Just wanted to congratulate you on the fantastic event today.
The student feedback has been great and they have taken a lot from it.
It has definitely been the best careers event so far I have seen at Polesworth...*

This positive parental, students and colleagues feedback indicates that a positive careers learning impact was achieved with our students, parents and colleagues. Which has inspired and raised the aspirations of our students to enable career decision making and career planning.