

# Enterprise Ambassadors speak out

## Have you ever been asked what you want to do when you grow up?

**It's a question we (Courtney and Sarah, Enterprise Ambassadors, Year 13) are still asked and, whilst we have an idea of the type of career we might want, we're still not quite sure of the finer details as we know the world will change greatly in the years we are at university.**

The one thing we do know is that the opportunities we have had in school to meet industry volunteers has been the catalyst that has changed us from wanting to be a teacher and an interior designer to now knowing we want to move into something in Social Sciences (Sarah) and Business (Courtney) in our future careers.

At Northampton Academy, we have the opportunity to work alongside business volunteers in a range of work related learning activities such as 'Market a Penguin' in Year 7 to entering the National Enterprise Challenge in year 10 and 11. Local company volunteers, work with us to encourage a competitive spirit and help build the skills we need in the workplace.

### Took me in a whole new direction

This is my first memory of meeting somebody from a business environment who spoke about what their job entailed and why it didn't mean 'just sitting behind a desk'. I wanted to know more and was invited along to a STEM day to find out how IT worked in the modern world and this took me in a whole new direction, looking at careers I hadn't even heard of.

Over the last few years we have enjoyed meeting a wide range of people who have kindly come to the Academy to speak to us about their careers, set us 'in class' challenges, allowed us to help design education resources for their websites and so on. I can honestly say that every experience just adds a little more to our knowledge and skills base and helps improve our confidence when having to make important decisions about our futures.

Through NEP, we also took part in a marketing workshop for the 'Love Talent' campaign and met Sam Giymah MP to discuss how enterprising Northamptonshire is. He commented on how confident we were and knowledgeable about Northamptonshire's job market and we feel this has come from our employability programme (thanks Northamptonshire employers!) There are numerous events and opportunities for each of the year groups with a range of companies such as Travis Perkins, Barclaycard, National Rail, Coca-Cola and Norbert Dentressangle (now XPO Logistics) supporting events and even hosting their own.



### Building on skills

When we meet employers they always tell us that working with us helps them to understand the next generation of employees but also gives them an insight into what motivates many of us to keep building on key skills which are important in the workplace.

Staff in school always tell students to grab every opportunity to make themselves stand out in a crowd, but also tell employers never to underestimate the difference their work will have on us. Now we are in Year 13 we can bear testament to this, as it is all those little bits of advice, the mentoring sessions, the opportunities to visit various businesses and the support at careers events that has given us the confidence to move from our Year 7 'Dress for work day' costumes to our year 13 university choices and first steps towards our future careers.

**Thank you Northampton Businesses!**

