

## Initiative Introduction

**Our future Derby** is a partnership project designed to introduce and engage primary school children in the changing world of work to enhance awareness, broaden horizons, raise aspirations and open a world of greater possibilities to the children, their families and their teachers.

Through comprehensive engagement with the schools, teachers, parents/carers, and local businesses, along with a host of volunteers, a programme of different interactive activities is being delivered in schools to help reinforce and change long term behaviours.

## Volunteer Benefits

Being an **Our future Derby** volunteer not only supports the delivery of the activity programme but also brings so many other personal benefits, such as:

- Building your own personal presentation, communication, and leadership skills
- Increasing your confidence
- Learning new people skills
- Being challenged to do something out of your comfort zone
- Having fun and giving something back to society
- Help children by opening their eyes to their future possibilities

**Read here about a volunteer's experience.**



Volunteer

**Keely Flavill**

Company

**Personal Safety Trainers**

Industry sector

**Health & Safety**

## The Business

Personal Safety Trainers is a Derby-based business which provides a full range of training and consultancy services to help organisations keep their employees safe while at work. Its services include tailored in-house personal safety, lone worker, violence & aggression de-escalation and self-defence training to help people to identify and mitigate their risks, de-escalate violence and aggression and defend themselves should a situation become physical. It also offers First Aid for Mental Health Ofqual registered courses. It was founded by Keely Flavill, an accredited training consultant who has over 25 years experience, creating and delivering simple effective training. Personal Safety Trainers have a wide range of clients from charitable organisations and SMEs to the NHS, Police Civilian Staff and G4S.

## The Activity

Keely signed up for the **Our future Derby** project after hearing about it at a networking event. As a Derby-based business with a keen community focus, she liked the idea of getting involved with a local school to help inspire children to think about their future from a young age, so they have a goal to work towards. She took part in a 'Line-up Assembly' at the Ashwood Spencer Academy, in Allenton, alongside a radiographer, two female firefighters and an ex-Navy serviceman. The children were tasked with asking yes or no questions to everyone in the line-up, before trying to guess what their job roles were. After the exercise, the children were split into groups and had the opportunity to ask more questions to Keely and the other volunteers about their jobs and what they entail.

## The Impact

Keely said: "This was a brilliant and really fun activity to get involved with and it was great to work with the children to give them a glimpse into what I do for a living and how I got here.

I never got opportunities like this when I was at school. We got very basic careers advice where someone came in and because I was a girl, they told me to look for jobs in admin and signposted me to a few local companies where I might find work and that was it. It wasn't very exciting or inspiring. I think investing in the next generation of businesses and talent is really important, which is why I wanted to get involved and put something back into the community. It has hopefully made a difference for the children I worked with and given them something to think about."

## Get Involved

Would you like to get involved as a volunteer from the world of work and share your work experiences with our local children? We are looking for volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds in all forms of job roles.

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Volunteer

**Claire Storey**

Company

**Claire Storey Languages**

Industry sector

**Translation Activities**

## The Business

Claire Storey is an independent, professional freelance linguist offering translation and tuition services for German and Spanish. With a keen interest in literary translation, particularly books for children and young adults, Claire is also a contributor to the World Kid Lit Blog and her work has featured in the Antioch University literary journal, Lunch Ticket and she was shortlisted for the 2019 Goethe-Institute New Translation Award. Having started tutoring in 2009, she is experienced at teaching all age groups, from older adults who are learning for fun to GCSE and A-Level students who need help to pass their exams.

At the other end of the spectrum, she also runs a fortnightly Spanish group for toddlers.

## The Activity

Claire signed up for the **Our future Derby** project after hearing about it via Education and Employers' Inspiring the Future initiative. She had previously volunteered at events involving older schoolchildren, so was keen to expand her skills and horizons by sharing her expertise with primary school children as well, to inspire them about a potential career with languages. She took part in an **Our future Derby** volunteer training day, before visiting local schools to take part in 'What's my Line?' assemblies. These involved inviting children to ask a series of questions about what she does for a living, to try and work out what her job role is. After Claire revealed what she did, the children were encouraged to ask more questions about careers involving languages.

## The Impact

Claire said: "I'm always interested in going out and talking to people about languages.

**Our future Derby** seemed like a natural thing to do, because it gives me the opportunity to enthuse young people about language from an early age. Many children and young people in Derby are bilingual or multilingual and I want to encourage them to see this as a skills they. It's very much about connecting with children and making them think slightly differently about their skills how they might relate to what I had to say. Language is not just about a text book: it is about culture and opening your mind to new experiences. I feel it is my responsibility as a linguist to tell children and young people what they can do with a language and the benefits it can bring, not only to their careers but their lives as well."

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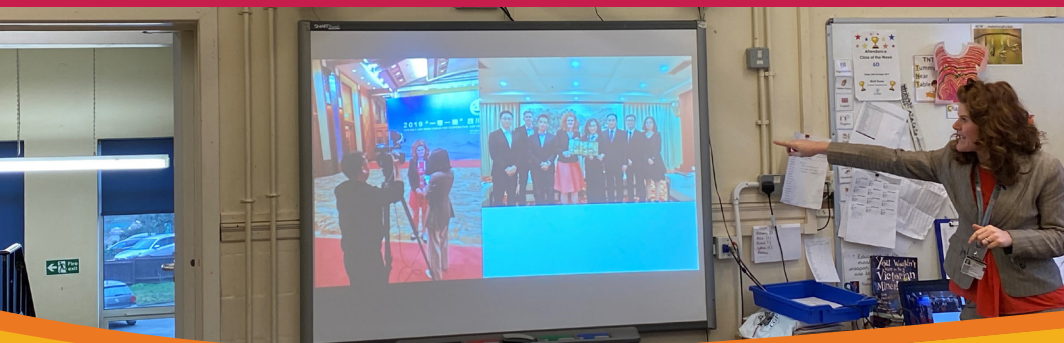
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Volunteer

**Laura Howard**

Company

**East Midlands Chamber**

Industry sector

**International Trade**

## The Business

East Midlands Chamber (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) is the leading business representation organisation in the East Midlands region, providing a voice for more than 4,300 member businesses. From start-up to scale-up, local to global, the Chamber is renowned across the region for enhancing its businesses and communities. It undertakes a wide range of activities on behalf of its members and the wider business community, from skills, training and digital support to lobbying, campaigning, advice and information about international trade. The Chamber's activity is so diverse and multifaceted that thousands of businesses from across the East Midlands and beyond put trust in the Chamber to help their businesses flourish and grow.

## The Activity

Laura Howard is the Chamber's Head of International Trade. She signed up as a volunteer for the **Our future Derby** project as an opportunity for personal development. As a mum to two young daughters, she is also passionate about inspiring children from an early age, particularly girls, about the world of business. She took part in two **Our future Derby** volunteer training days, before visiting the Ashwood Spencer Primary School, in Allenton, to talk about her career and the opportunities it has presented.

The theme of one particular session was 'Where does my job take me?' and Laura was able to talk to children about the fact that she had the opportunity to visit China as part of a trade delegation from the East Midlands.

## The Impact

Laura said: "I have a thirst for learning and always like to share my enthusiasm with young people at the very start of their pathway to careers. As a mother of two daughters I wanted to inspire women and girls in particular to reach for the stars. When asked to draw a pilot, a surgeon and a firefighter many pupils draw a white man, so anything I can do to help challenge and change those perceptions has to be a good thing. I was amazed to learn, when I spoke to children, that many already have real aspirations. So many youngsters I spoke to wanted to be police officers, doctors, lawyers and vets. My own kids also thought it was cool, me going into a school to speak just like their teachers! I got to meet some inspiring children and learn what motivates tomorrow's workforce."

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Volunteer

**Pete Smith & Rebecca Dermody-Simmons**

Company

**Efficiency East Midlands**

Industry sector

**Procurement Consortia**

## The Business

Efficiency East Midlands (EEM) is a non-profit organisation offering procurement solutions to public sector organisations, which bring about efficiency savings. It provides public sector bodies with a way of procuring goods and services and we have member organisations ranging across various sectors. Its priority is to support its members in their common goal, to provide efficiently-delivered and high quality products and services to the communities they serve. Since 2010, EEM and its members have worked together to deliver comprehensive yet simplified procurement solutions, which offer a wide range of compliant, competitive and high-quality products and services. Its vision is to develop a collaborative working approach, which delivers organisational, financial and social benefits.

## The Activity

EEM Chief Executive Pete Smith and Deputy Chief Executive Rebecca Dermody-Simmons were keen to sign up for the Our Future Derby project as a way of giving something back to the communities in which they operate. Both underwent volunteer training days before going into separate schools to take part in a number of different activities.

Rebecca took part in a 'What's My Line?' assembly, which saw youngsters ask questions to try and work out what she did for a living, while Pete went into the classroom to share his own personal story about leaving school with few qualifications, before starting a career in the building trade and branching into procurement, which led up to him setting up EEM in 2011.

## The Impact

Pete Smith said: "As a company, supporting the community is in our DNA, so we were delighted to get involved in this initiative.

"Being able to go into a school and talk to children about how we got into the positions we're in was a great thing to do.

"When I was younger, I wasn't good at school. I didn't like it, but I was able to show children, through my own story, that if you really want to do something and you put your mind to it, then you don't need to be the cleverest person to be able to achieve it.

"It's all about having belief and applying yourself properly, which was the message I tried to give."

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