

Case study

Warren School – Pop Up Café

Warren School is a special school in Lowestoft, where learners in the sixth form have been working with the external Careers Adviser and the local New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network to develop their employability and enterprise skills by working with members of the local business community.

Central to the project was the creation of a pop-up café and mock interview training sessions. In the mock interview sessions, learners spent time getting to know their employers in an open discussion about what they understood about the world of work and future career pathways. They then explored further what they would like to ask the employers and took turns to ask the questions. Employers taught learners how to introduce themselves and practice their handshake technique on each other and with each employer. There was also a reciprocal element to the session where the learners taught the employers how to use sign language to introduce themselves.

To support enterprise and running alongside the mock interview project, the school signed up to Tesco's Fare Share, food waste reduction scheme. The students then used Fare Share to make food for staff in the "pop up café".

The students took the "pop up" cafe outside of school and set up in the Riverside Council Office building in Lowestoft, using their communication and skills of persuasion to sell the products to staff and visitors.

To add to the realism, learners were required to apply for the roles of Pop Up Café Assistant and had an interview with one of the employers. After some deliberation two learners were appointed to the role of assistants, with all the students then contributing by making cakes and various items which could be sold.



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The Careers & Enterprise Company

2-7 Clerkenwell Green
Clerkenwell
London EC1R 0DE

careersandenterprise.co.uk