

Case study: Swindon College

The academic year 2017-2018 saw the launch of the National Literacy Trust's Words for Work: Post-16 programme. This is also the first year Words for Work has been delivered in our National Literacy Trust Hub area of Swindon, and the team was delighted to run the programme with three separate groups of Swindon College students.

Words for Work gives young people the literacy and communication skills they need to be successful in the workplace. Students on the Words for Work: Post-16 programme take part in a business immersion day, visiting the offices of a local business. Students are given a tour of the office, and get the opportunity to interview the volunteers about their roles and career history. Volunteers highlight the importance of workplace communication in their everyday lives and share with the students their top tips for interviews.



Swindon College took part in three business immersion days, hosted by Royds Withy King solicitors, HOCHTIEF construction and the Brunel Shopping Centre.

After the immersion days, the students emailed the Words for Work team to practise their formal communication by thanking the volunteers and inviting them to the networking events. One student commented that the class "enjoyed having a look at the different jobs" on offer, with another student adding that the Words for Work programme "was a valuable experience that helped [him] to learn the importance of working as part of a team and clear communication".



The businesses commented on how much the volunteers enjoyed the experience, with the Brunel Centre tweeting their support of the programme both on the business immersion day and at the follow-up networking event.

Alison Adams, lead teacher at Swindon College, commented that "all the students really enjoyed the experience", with teaching assistant, Bobby Campbell, noting how his students "embraced the opportunity to experience the workplace in action".

It was fantastic to engage with three such enthusiastic groups of young people and we look forward to working with Swindon College again in the next academic year.