

Northampton School for girls

Northampton School for Girls is an 11 – 18 Comprehensive with 1700 on roll. It has a Specialism in Music and Applied Learning. Learners involved in this project are 50 students from years 7,8,9,10 and 12.

The objectives of partnership with employers were to develop cross curricular and age range cohesion, to link school's learning goals and to improve enterprise, work-related learning and employability skills through focus subjects by working with local employers in the field.

Students from different year groups worked with employers in a cross-curricular project focusing on Health and Social Care, Drama and Media Studies to produce their own episode of 'Casualty'. The media team prepared for the day by visiting Northampton University where they were taught how to storyboard, take still and active shots, handle a camera and edit a short film.

English students prepared with the Chronicle and Echo, Northampton's local paper. Their journalist taught students how to case a story and produce a journalist report. Health and Social Care and Drama students were trained in first aid by St John's Ambulance.

On production day a professional team of paramedics were present that students consulted to ensure that each scene was realistic and any medical information or treatment was correct. All students had their role to play from logistical organisation to acting in the film. Throughout, the different teams worked together consulting the employers for advice and guidance whilst maintaining their own work schedule.

At the end of the day all the filming was collected and the media team once again went back to the university where they made their final cut.

The benefits to employers were as follows:

- Northampton University Media Department has the chance to highlight the courses available and to break down barriers that may prevent students from engaging with and aspiring to higher education.
- Chronicle and Echo Newspaper who were provided with a story and the opportunity of working with local students and readers of the paper
- Northampton Hospital paramedic team were given the opportunity to highlight the importance of their work to the students and educate them in first aid that could save lives at the same time as supporting student learning.

Students' leadership, teamwork, communication, enterprise and work-related skills are developed. Students given the opportunity to work across different year groups and to learn from each other- social cohesion and relationship development, make the school a friendlier place. Students learn about a wide range of careers that could be available to them in medicine, media and journalism.

The school staff involved namely; Ita Cassey- Head of Film Studies, Sharon Tomlinson - Head of Health and Social Care and Sarah Hutt, Assistant Headteacher and Director of Applied Learning all found the partnerships a powerful learning tool.

The school media team have gone from strength to strength, e.g. year 8 students have produced a film on how to use the school library for the new intake of year 7.

Northampton University continues in its work to sustain the media team leading to increased opportunities. The paramedic team continues to provide specific information and context for the Society Health and Development students on aspects of their Diploma course.

To find out more and view the episode of NSG Casualty visit the school website at nsg@northants.sch.uk