

Aspirations @ St. Mary's

Work, Play, Pray Together.

Background...

- Aspiration Days began at St. Mary's in 2008. In the past, the children visited various events around the local area. They would have a brief stop-off at one of the many careers stations within the room, and had the opportunity to ask questions.
- Many companies or individuals have been involved since our project began.
- Hundreds of pupils have been inspired to follow the career of their dreams through Aspiration Days.



How has the event grown?

St Mary's Aspirations Day has grown gradually since 2008.

It has evolved from trips out, to a school based event. Now we invite a wide range of kind volunteers to come and give an insight in to what career or job role they have.

We always invite people from an extensive variety of roles and backgrounds, to enable all of our children to gain some kind of knowledge to which path they may wish to follow when the time arrives.

Even as an internal event, Aspiration Day has grown from a one day experience to three full days of enriching opportunities.

Why we run the events?

- To challenge the children to identify their personal qualities, attitudes, skills and achievements, and how these impact their future choices.
- The events are designed to broaden the children's understanding of a variety of careers they can aspire to.
- To enable the children to recognise aspirations are shaped by expectations, highlighting a potential barrier to underachieving.
- To encourage all of our children to reach for the stars.



We know that even at the young age of three or four, children are already starting to form their first aspirations.

By six they are starting to have opinions on what they think they can or can't do in the future. And by the time they're 10, young people start to make decisions which could go on to limit their future options.

We believe it is vital to provide children with knowledge about the world of work and to develop a range of skills and aspirations that will benefit their future learning and readiness for their future career.

It's not about children choosing their future jobs at this very young age. It's about helping our children and young people to have ambitions and aspirations for themselves, helping them to learn about the variety of jobs open to them and the fantastic range of opportunities we have in the region. St. Mary's pupils also gain a broad understanding of the routes to get into work and training, including the essential skills and attitudes required to be successful in both further study and in the workplace.



Career mark

We working towards this exciting project.

North East Ambulance Service Patient Paramedics.



We have many budding paramedics at St Mary's. There is now no need to panic if you need any medical assistance. A huge thank you to NEAS for your amazing, talented personnel.

All Aboard with The Marine College South Shields.

Captain Jon Milner joined us from the Marine College. He brought with him several pieces of equipment, along with many exciting stories of his travels around the world. He explained how the equipment worked and demonstrated how to use it safely. The children loved trying on the suits and investigating the equipment. It was an extremely interesting insight into marine engineering and a worthwhile experience for all involved.



Sign Language Expert and Sea Cadet Combined.

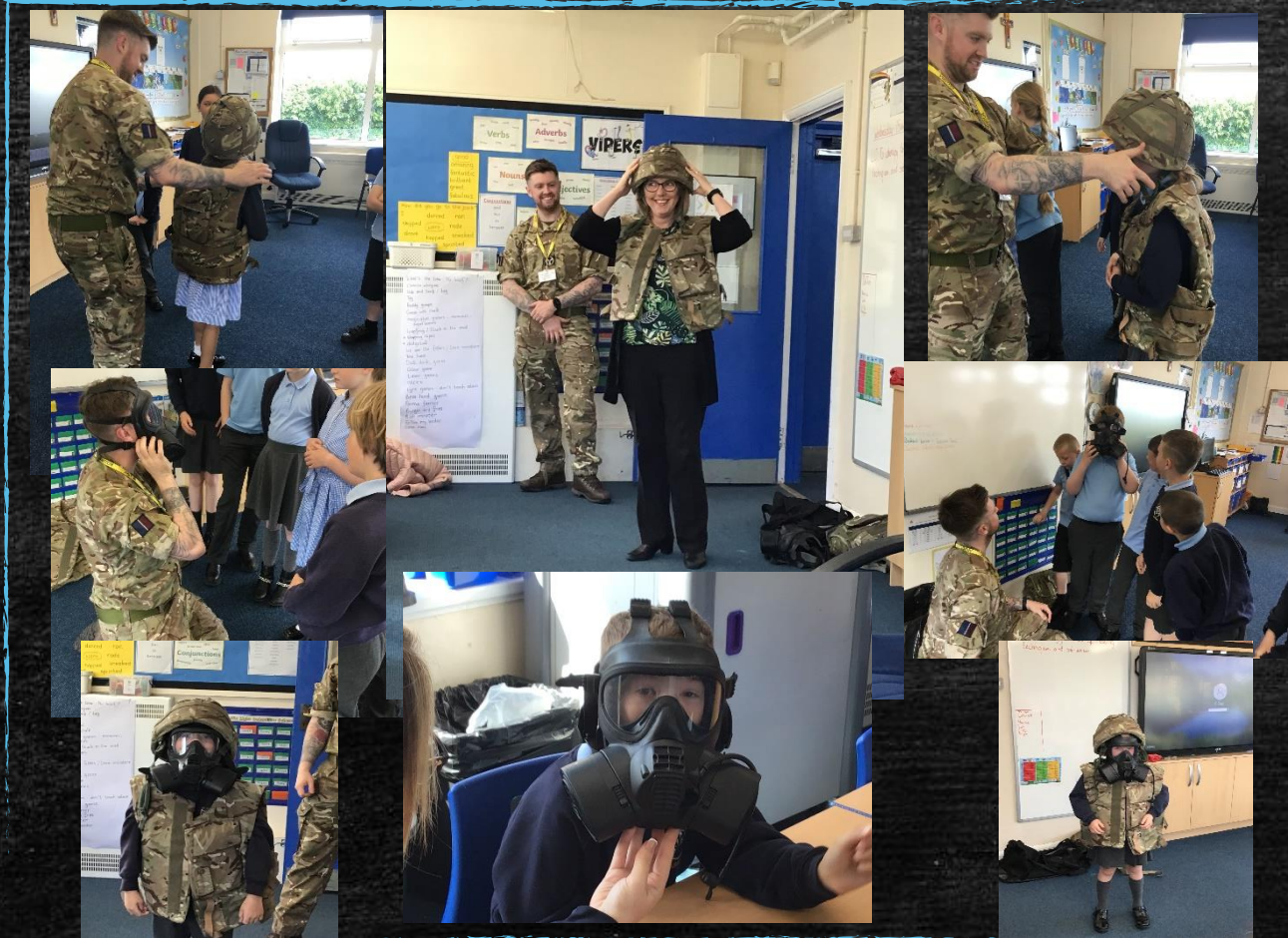
We were lucky enough to be joined by a very talented visitor who teaches children with hearing impairments as well as being a sea cadet. She taught our children how to use sign in a variety of situations. They learned how to say their names and how to greet each other.

She also shared her knowledge and experiences of being a sea cadet and explained how much she enjoyed it.

Is there no end to this ladies talents?



Stand To Attention with the RAF.



This was an extremely special occasion for our next visitor.

He said he was delighted and honored to be invited to join us for our Aspirations Day.

Ben is a former St Mary's pupil and was amazed to see some of his teachers still here.

Ben shared his experiences about his personal role and about his life and challenges within the RAF. He explained where he is based, the countries he has travelled to and the many tasks he has faced.

The children were astonished and mesmerized by the weight of his kit and his gas mask. They thoroughly enjoyed trying them on and asked many questions.

An Arresting Visit from Northumbria Police.

We had plenty of law breakers at St Mary's today.

Finger prints were taken, the culprits were quickly identified and promptly arrested.



Nurturing Nurses with kind hands.



The children had a great morning wrapping each other in bandages. They closely observed and listened to their instructions from the medical expert and then tried themselves. There was plenty of mummification going on, but a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.

Heating Homes and Mending Machines.

'o800 Repair' kindly accepted our invitation to join us on Aspirations Day. The Heating Engineer showed the children pictures and used interactive diagrams to help compile and understand the installation of pipe work. They learned about fixtures and fittings, and the elements necessary to heat a structure and how to maintain it.

White socks and washing machines were the topic for the domestic appliance discussion. The children were amazed at how items could actually disappear in the machine causing blocking, flooding and chaos.

The moral of the story from the washing machine engineer was-

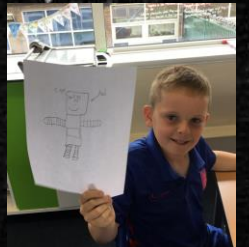
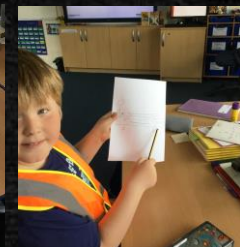
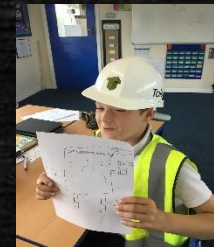
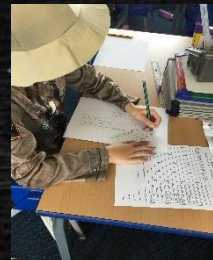
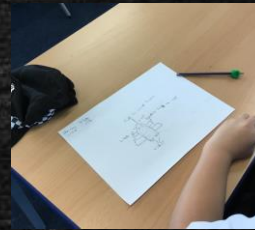
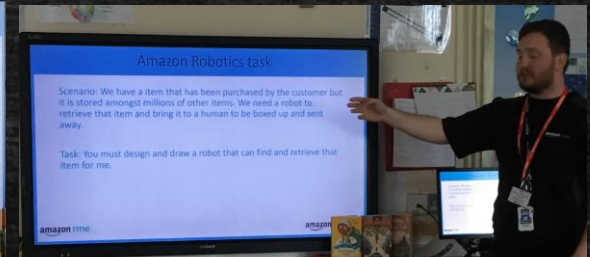
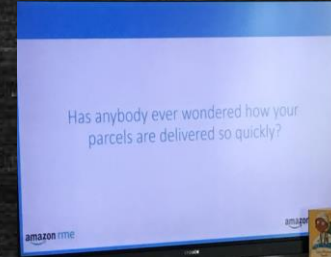
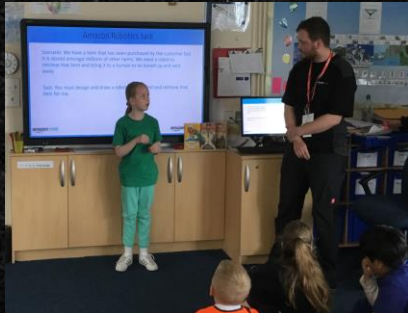
"Empty your pockets before your clothes go into the machine."



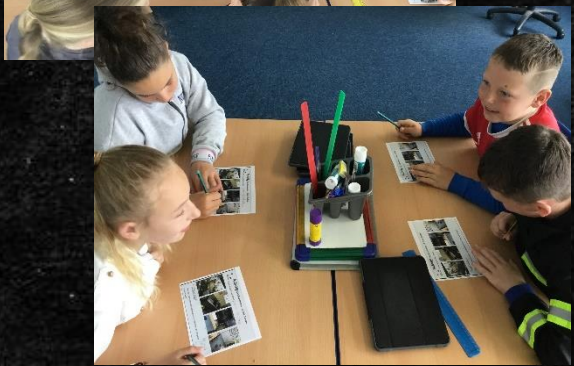
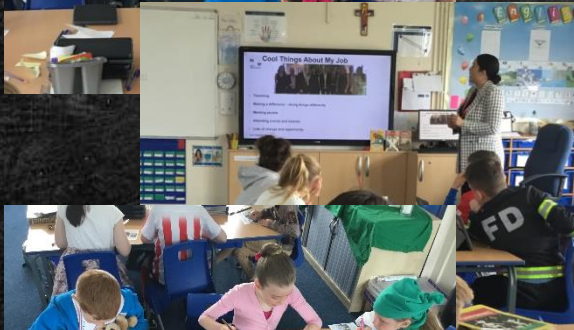
Amazon Adventures.

A visit from Amazon gave the children an insight into the day to day running of the huge operation within their vast warehouses. Our guest allowed the children to showcase their ingenious innovative skills after an informative brief on the project.

A creative challenge- the children were given an amazonian task of creating a new robot that could find and retrieve items. They relished in the activity developing, designing and depicting until they were confident their robots would be capable of the job in hand.



Health and Safety-An extremely informative visit from engineering company Mott McDonald allowed the children to understand ways to stay safe in and out of the workplace. They highlighted that following health and safety rules can make the community a safer place for everyone. The children were given a set of scenarios and had to identify the hazards and risks surrounding the situations.



A Sporting Chance from a Gateshead College Coach.



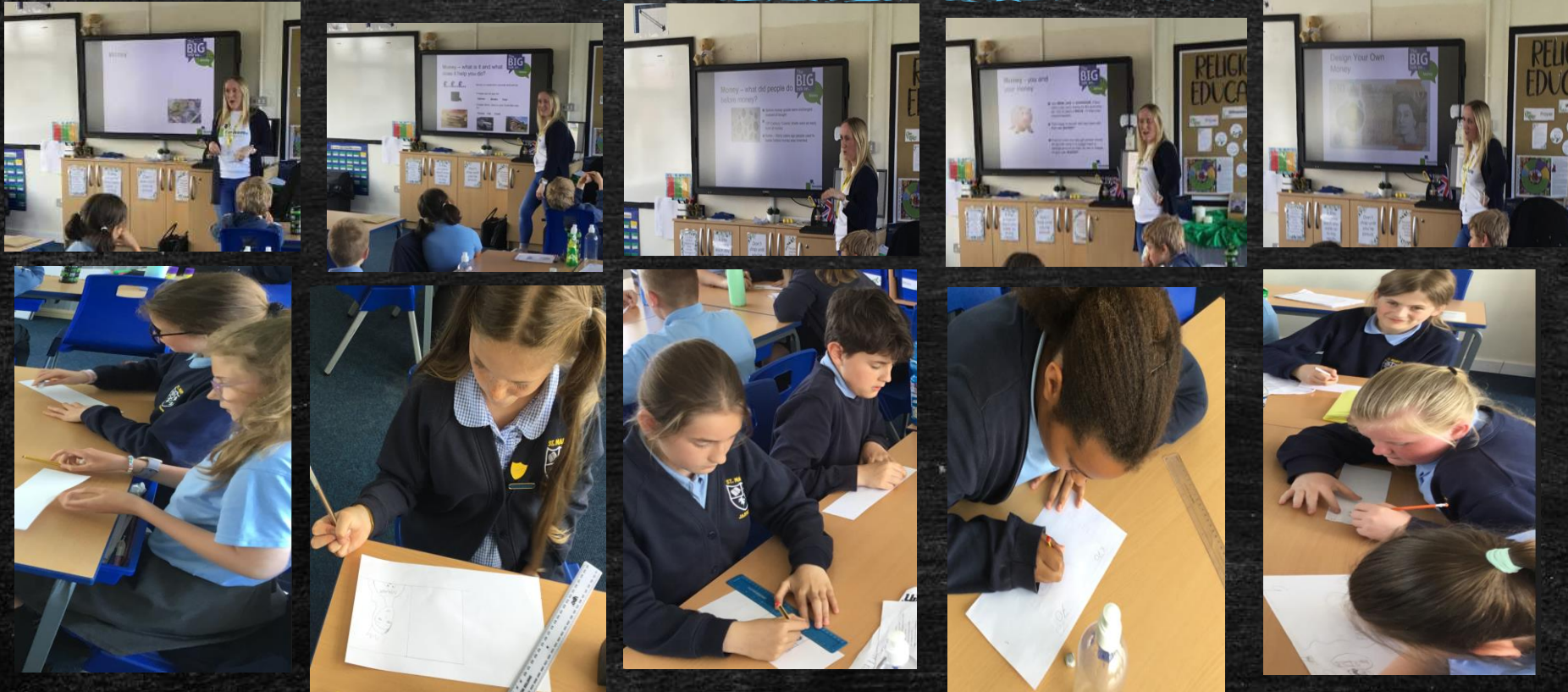
A very special coach took time out of her busy schedule to visit St Mary's and talk with our children today.

Not only is Julie Head Coach at Gateshead Netball Academy, but also the Head Coach for the U17 Scotland squad.

Julie explained how she travels the world with her role as a netball coach and enjoys every minute of it. She told of the commitment and hard work involved in getting to where she is today, but advised the children that anything is possible if the desire, ambition and aspiration is great enough.

Julie encouraged the children to work hard and strive for what they want to achieve, whichever career path they choose to take.

Making Money with The Newcastle Building Society.



The children were extremely interested when our next guest informed them of the task in hand. Making money was definitely everyone's favourite subject. They learned about life before money and how items were traded and purchased, then listened intently to the instruction and created their own currency for trading in today's markets.

A Room with a Zoom.

Ian Hoskins popped into the classroom via zoom. He chatted to the children about his life and background.

Ian is a photographer who originates from Newcastle, however he is now London based. He explained how he took an old camera and a bag of film and set off to India.

From that first trip many exciting countries followed such as Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal.

Ian had lots of tales to tell about his career, but the children were most impressed by his time spent working on Harry Potter.



Final Thoughts.

Aspiration Day not only provides our children with some ideas for their future careers, but also shows them ways in which they can be valuable and responsible members of society whether through paid work or volunteering.

This is what some of our children thought about Aspiration Day:

“My favourite visitor was Officer Goldhawk. I loved looking inside the police car and learning what all the buttons do. We even listened to the radio. I think when I am older I would like to be a police officer so I can help people.”— Harry Brown.

“I loved speaking to the army officer Ben because we got to try on parts of his uniform. I also liked trying to spot the hazards on the health and safety video. I got quite a few right. When I am older I think I want to work with children.” — Evie Garbutt

"I enjoyed watching and learning how robots at Amazon help Jamie do his job. He told us all about how he fixes the robots and programmes them to help pick everyone's orders. I would really like to work with robots." – Roman Lisle

"I loved trying on the diver's suit from the marine college. It was so heavy. I had to be helped when putting it on. It was great finding out what kind of things they do while at sea, the places they visit and all the different roles on board the ships." – Kieran Miller.

"My favourite visitors were the paramedics. They showed us around the ambulance and explained what the machines were for. We also pretended we were paramedics and practised on the dummy. I think I would like to do that job because they help people get better." – Grace Falconer.

We at St Mary's strive to continually make Aspirations Days creative for our students, to encourage ambition and direction in life in whichever path they choose to follow.

2023 Careers

In June 2023, we held an aspiration event in school.

The focus for the event was 'Next steps'. We linked the event closely to our Character Development package and school leadership and belonging.

The children developed their knowledge of what is next for them in school and the school pathway at St. Mary's and then beyond. We had a careers expert in school who talked about the next steps, e.g. sixth form, apprenticeships, university.

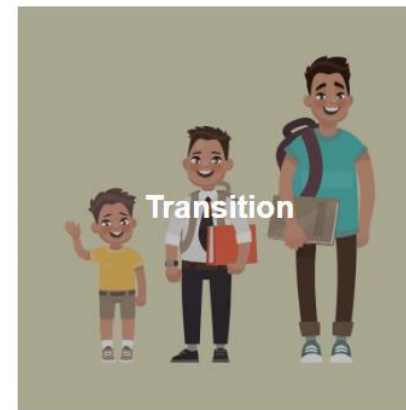
We 'sign post' to careers so that children know that visitors we have in school link to our career development.

As part of the career development, we link closely with our secondary school.



MoneySense – a free financial education programme for 5-18s

With fun activities, games and resources that help teach children about money at home, as well as in schools.



My World of Work

Sentence starters

This week I learned...	Something I found tricky...
Something I enjoyed...	
I worked together with...	I encouraged someone else by...

Next steps...

The eight benchmarks are a framework for good career guidance developed to support schools in providing students with the best possible career's education, information, advice, and guidance.

We are tracking our career guidance against this framework.

The Gatsby Benchmarks

Gatsby Benchmarks	Description
1. A stable careers programme (GB1)	Every school and college should have an embedded programme of career education and guidance that is known and understood by pupils, parents, teachers, and employers.
2. Learning from career and labour market information (GB2)	Every pupil, and their parents, should have access to good-quality information about future study options and labour market opportunities. They will need the support of an informed adviser to make best use of available information.
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil (GB3)	Pupils have different career guidance needs at different stages. Opportunities for advice and support need to be tailored to the needs of each pupil. A school's careers programme should embed equality and diversity considerations throughout.
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers (GB4)	All teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. For example, STEM subject teachers should highlight the relevance of STEM subjects for a wide range of future career paths.
5. Encounters with employers and employees (GB5)	Every pupil should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes.
6. Experiences of workplaces (GB6)	Every pupil should have first-hand experiences* of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities and expand their networks.
7. Encounters with further and higher education (GB7)	All pupils should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace.
8. Personal guidance (GB8)	Every pupil should have opportunities for guidance interviews with a career's adviser, who could be internal (a member of school staff) or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level. These should be available whenever significant study or career choices are being made. They should be expected for all pupils but should be timed to meet their individual needs.