

LPSF - Progression Fair

Now that the dust has settled a bit, I thought it timely to reflect on what was, by any measure, a tremendously successful event.

When planning this event, I set myself a theme: *“inspiration. I want young people to see that anything can be possible, to think beyond the comfort zones and be open to new experiences. I want them to consider industries they’ve not previously, roles they’ve not even heard of.”*

I set myself a brief. And then I set to work.

I started in January. I reached out to my network, but also to the wider networks of the [Careers and Enterprise Company](#) and Sheffield Council’s [See it Be it](#) Initiative. Through them, many of the employers represented signed up to attend. Not only that, but they have voiced interest in further supporting the 6th form in the future.

In numbers alone, the event was tremendous success:

We had more than **50 guests** in Longley Park, from more than **40** employers, universities and providers of further education and apprenticeships. That means **50 working days** were given in support of our students, inspiring them and guiding their thoughts about progression. Employers included a number of different flavours of the civil service, the NHS, the army, navy and South Yorkshire police.

In terms of student attendees, many of our guests have commented on how there was a **“steady flow”** of students throughout the day. **I lost count** of the number of classes and tutor groups being brought down to meet our guests but it was a lot!

But events like these are not just about the numbers, they are about the quality of the experience. Since clearing up the tables and the chairs, I’ve been collecting feedback from both students and exhibitors a like.

I’ve been doing so to gauge how the event was received, but also to inform the development of future events. If you have any thoughts about future events, please feel free to share them with me.

Here’s what they’ve said so far.

Exhibitors

- “Student interaction - very good questions and much interest”
- “It was an excellent event - positive and engaging....[It was] organised it extremely well and the providers were active participants and happy to be there. Students interacted with the participants asking relevant questions and taking information on board.”
- “The was a continual flow of students, with staff actively encouraging student engagement with exhibitors. All staff involved were extremely friendly, and took time out to introduce themselves, which was also lovely, and not seen at every fair.”

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- “All together I really enjoyed the event - was thinking throughout the event that I would have liked something like this when I was in sixth form and unsure on what I wanted to do post A Levels”
- “I'd come again if invited.”

Students - What was good about this event?

- “Had the opportunity to speak with representatives from multiple universities all under one roof!”
- “I was exposed to other careers and study paths I probably never taught”
- “Variety of people to meet and converse with, opened my mind to other possibilities regarding my future.”

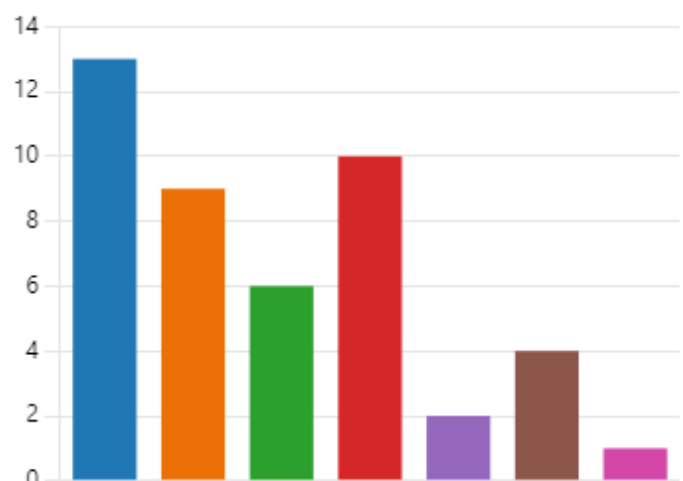
Students - What could have been better?

- “Lots of unis I get that but maybe a few more employees I only saw virgin money personally.”
- “Lots of unis I get that - but maybe a few more employees I only saw virgin money personally.”
- “I can't think of a way how this could've gone better, it was a good.”
- “Having the people stay until after school for an extra hour”

9. Thinking about future events, what would like included in the next one - Select your top 3

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