



In March 2023, on National Careers Week, the Us Charitable Trust facilitated two in-school careers fairs at Newman Catholic College and The Crest Academy. The fairs were attended by employers from a variety of industries ranging from healthcare to engineering to sport and all employers had live vacancies and opportunities the young people could benefit from. Over 1500 students attended across the two days, reaching students from ages 12 to 18 across both schools.

The aim was to excite young people about their future and provide them with practical support to achieve their goals. On the day, the students could not only understand more about a huge range of careers but take tangible steps to progress towards that industry. Many of the employers offered access to sign up for fully subsidised places on training and work experience opportunities or camps and courses happening over the summer holidays. Higher education institutions were also in attendance as well as apprenticeship training providers to present opportunities for further training and insight on the careers that could unlock.

There was a great atmosphere in the room as young people were able to try a simulation of flying a plane, chat to Police about being a young cadet, gain a practical insight to dentistry with the NHS, engage in the arts with Metroland Cultures or learn about top apprenticeships currently available with Balfour Beatty and HS2. Us staff were always on hand to help students and partners on the day.

To engage students, they were invited to participate in a bingo competition, collecting information from different employers to complete their bingo cards and be entered into a prize draw. We found this helped maintain a strong level of engagement across multiple year groups. Additionally, the Us Charitable Trust maintained a strong presence to help provide broader guidance and gain a greater understanding of common aspirations among each student group to further inform future events.

"This has been the second time we've had a careers fair at The Crest Academy and it has been very successful. All the different companies share their knowledge and communicate very well with students and staff, opening their minds to great opportunities throughout different organisations. This has a huge positive impact and is testament to The Us Charitable Trust's hard work for the students: opening their minds and helping them overcome challenging situations so the world can be a better place where our children can see a future for themselves. Tiffany, Mat and Janet work very hard with an open heart and the utmost care for our students. We could not ask for a better team to work alongside our students, thank you!"

- **Lorna Jules, Key Stage 5 Pastoral Lead, The Crest Academy**

"The careers fair was very useful and made me think about other options for the future such as being an air pilot. I feel like I learned a lot that day."

- **Student A**

"The Crest careers fair was really helpful, allowing us to see more options and routes to achieve our career goals. Also playing bingo was a nice idea to help us go and speak to the employers who were at the fair."

- **Student B**

Organisations in attendance included:



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