

Your subject their future:

A guide to using volunteers and videos to enhance the curriculum



inspiringthe**future**.org 

Introduction

Making the leap from education to employment is increasingly challenging for young people in a fast-changing job market.

With this in mind, it is more important than ever to ensure young people don't lose sight of the connections between the subjects they study at school or college, the knowledge and skills they develop, and the careers they want to pursue.

But sometimes it isn't easy to draw clear links between what's learned in the classroom and the reality of the workplace in ways that young people can understand.

icould.com and Inspiring the Future have brought together their online library of personal career videos and UK-wide network of volunteers to develop this guide for teachers which illustrates how volunteers, videos and a range of online resources can help to support connections with careers across the curriculum.

The opportunities for schools to draw on the ever-growing network of Inspiring the Future volunteers in a vast range of jobs and sectors across the country are enormous. icould.com offers an equally diverse collection of online videos, giving teachers instant free access to real life career stories that can inspire young people in a medium they truly understand.

**inspire young people in a
medium they truly understand**

Purpose of the Guide

The guide focuses on the combined benefits of bringing professionals from different backgrounds into the classroom and being able to use real career stories on film to bring work to life as young people make choices about their future. It shows how using video and online resources can maximise the benefits of a visit by a volunteer into school.

Research shows that meeting and hearing from a range of people about their working lives who use subject-related knowledge in their jobs helps children and young people understand the relevance of what is being taught. By demonstrating the practical uses of a subject, real life career stories can enrich learning, improve motivation and participation in the classroom, underpinning attainment.

Enabling young people to meet volunteers and hear the personal experiences of individuals with interesting jobs helps broaden horizons. It often kick-starts the process of thinking about future careers and encourages young people to make more informed choices about their future.

**enrich learning, improve
motivation and participation in
the classroom**

Using the resources

Inspiring the Future: bringing volunteers into the classroom

Inspiring the Future was launched in 2012 by the Education and Employers Taskforce which works in close partnership with the leading national bodies representing schools, colleges and employers. It offers a free service that allows teaching staff to connect directly with volunteers interested in working with state schools and colleges. Any teacher in the UK can register to use the system.

A secure, purpose-built online platform connects thousands of teachers in state schools and colleges serving young people from 5 to 19 with ever growing numbers of volunteers (currently more than 30,000) from an enormous range of careers, sectors and professions across the UK.

www.inspiringthefuture.org

icould.com: using personal career videos in subject teaching

icould.com gives free access to more than a thousand videos of people telling their personal career stories in their own words.

icould.com's videos engage young people in understanding how specific skills, attributes, interests and knowledge acquired at school are relevant at work. Each video comes with relevant Labour Market Information to enable young people to start discussions about average salary, skills and qualifications, predicted employment and more.

From apprentices to CEOs, people of all ages, careers and backgrounds give their personal perspective on the subjects they enjoyed at school, how their interests and life experiences affected their career journey and how they apply their practical knowledge and skills at work on a daily basis.



Combining volunteers and videos

We know that both these resources can provide great interactions for pupils enabling them to start making the connections between what they are studying and the world of work. By combining the two there is the opportunity to really maximise the benefit for young people.

This section draws on insights from teachers and career practitioners on ideas for how to combine both resources to maximise the value they bring. With Inspiring the Future volunteers ranging from Archaeologists to Zoologists, Apprentices to CEOs and representing all sectors of the UK economy and icould.com's video resources covering 25 different subject areas, schools can use videos to help introduce or maximise the impact of a volunteer visit:

- Start discussions, thinking and ideas before a volunteer's visit
- Enrich understanding of the range of opportunities in a particular sector
- Provide LMI about a particular field and allow young people to think about career development
- Allow young people to think about how local opportunities could be developed nationally or internationally

The following table offers a few illustrative examples on how you might be able to use volunteers and videos:

| Job title | Subject | Video | Tasks |
|--|-----------|---|---|
| Mountaineering Instructor and expedition leader | Geography |  <p>Richard Lyon, Ropes Access Sales Manager http://icould.com/videos/richard-l/</p> <p>http://icould.com/videos/rob-p/</p> | <p>Volunteer speaks about their job and how this may tie into what the students have learnt about topics such as mountains, Geographical Skills, Tourism, Rocks and Landscapes.</p> <p>Volunteer shares photos of different mountains and students will ask questions to think about their physical geography.</p> |
| Architect Interior Designer Urban Planner Builder / Construction Manager Engineer | Maths |  <p>Lorna Davis, Landscape Architect http://icould.com/videos/lorna-d/</p> <p>http://icould.com/videos/scott-d/</p> | <p>Volunteer shares a current/recent project they are working on which requires calculating measures.</p> <p>Volunteer issues a similar task for pupils, adapted to make it accessible. For example, here is a paper plan of a room we have designed.</p> <p>We must scale up the objects, then work out costs of using the premium materials (e.g. carpet, wallpaper) and cheaper materials. Can it fit to budget?</p> <p>Similar tasks could be created for buildings, planning road design (e.g. cycle lanes, pedestrian crossings, cars, bus stop etc.)</p> |
| Researcher | History | <p>http://icould.com/videos/rupa-r/</p> | <p>Volunteer speaks about their job and the process of researching into different areas.</p> <p>Students are given a topic/issue to research and volunteer explains some of the methods and techniques that they would use in their work.</p> |
| Planner, Brand Designer, Media, Advertising Agent | English | <p>http://icould.com/videos/nicky-s-2/</p> <p>http://icould.com/videos/martin-popplewell/</p> <p>http://icould.com/videos/debs-n/</p> | <p>Volunteer explains how advertising techniques are used to subtly influence the target market. Speak about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of written copy and slogan writing • Importance of verb use, connotations of individual words and word classes <p>Volunteer brings in a product that they are trying to promote and the pupils come up with a slogan and present back to the volunteer.</p> <p>They have to consider the connotations and rhetorical devices used.</p> |
| Volunteers with Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) from any background | MFL | <p>http://icould.com/videos/chloe-t/</p> <p>http://icould.com/videos/hannah-m/</p> | <p>Volunteer presents job in TL, students to listen and find specific information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General job insight • Comparison of French/Spanish CV with English ones • CV workshop with TL result <p>Volunteer describes experience of school/route into career in TL, students to listen and find out specific information.</p> |

Planning your lesson

Drawing on insights from classroom teachers and volunteers we have provided below a sample lesson plan and suggested activities using volunteers and videos for you to draw on based on the needs of your pupils.

Before the lesson

Students are given a range of careers ahead of the lesson (including that of the volunteer) and asked to research them using icould.com's videos. Without knowing the volunteer's job, pupils plan questions to ask the volunteer in order to find out what they do.

Guide their questions so that they are wide ranging (not just about age/wage/grades but also about routes into the career and thoughts about how subject learning is applied in the world of work).

Teachers may wish to produce a questionnaire about careers related to their subject that students complete before and after the session to monitor any changes in understanding/attitude/motivation.

Planning the lesson

Connect: Q&A - Teacher introduces volunteer briefly (or volunteer introduces his/herself) and opens with a Q&A based on the pre-lesson exercise.

Activation: Volunteer Demo - Volunteer explains how they got into their chosen career and demonstrates one of the tasks/skills that they do/use routinely in their jobs (related to the subject).

Demonstration: Student Attempt (problem-solving) – Students are given a similar task to complete in groups. Ensure that they are given appropriate brief/materials and this task is pitched correctly. Feedback at the end.

Plenary: Show your chosen icould.com video to demonstrate a related or similar career. Explore the LMI data with the volunteer to find out more

about this career and how specific subject study is relevant to the role.

Reflection: Ask students to write down the positive skills, qualities or experiences the volunteer demonstrated in their role.



Post lesson

As a post lesson exercise ask each student to complete the icould.com Buzz Quiz so they can explore their own special combination of strengths, passions and interests and how these can be used to describe themselves. Ask students to write a paragraph about themselves that captures their skills, qualities and experiences in a really positive way.
icould.com/buzz

Getting the most out of volunteers

Remember, engaging with young people, especially teenagers, can be daunting for those not used to it. The more information a volunteer has, the more confident they will feel, the more successful the lesson will be.

Carefully consider which volunteer you want to approach based on the needs of your students and have some backups in case your first choice is unavailable. Aim to expose students to a range of careers and a range of routes into these careers over time.

Get in touch 1-2 months before the volunteer is needed to optimise chances of securing their visit.

Be succinct but comprehensive in inviting volunteers; be clear about the ask.

Once they have responded positively, engage in a discussion to be clear about the task/skill that they will share with the class.

Discuss with the volunteer the career path they took, subjects they studied and key skills required for their job. Let the volunteer know you plan to show an icould.com video in the body of the lesson so they have the chance to view it beforehand.

When the volunteer has confirmed, forward them the lesson plan with timings.

Contact

For more information about Inspiring the Future please visit www.inspiringthefuture.org and click Sign Up to create a free account

- Email enquiries@inspiringthefuture.org or call the Schools team on **020 7566 4880** if you want to chat about volunteers available to your school

For more information about icould.com, please contact info@icould.org.uk or visit www.icould.com

- Sign up for our newsletter for teachers and schools at <http://icould.com/contact/> for more information about our site and forthcoming resources. Join the icould networking group on LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8272898>

For more information on using icould.com's resources in the classroom, please see Making use of icould, learning from practise, Derby University <http://icould.com/teachersresources/>