

KICKSTART

YOUR FUTURE

18 Month Report



 **salford
foundation**

 **JD FOUNDATION**

This report covers the the first 18 months of the contract from start until 30th September 2025.

This report will breakdown the activities being delivered. Sections are broken down into Jump Forward, Stretch Further & Reach Higher.



Overall Project Objectives

- Better prepare young people with knowledge and skills for life and work and enhance employment awareness and career prospects, focusing particularly on those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.
- Provide young people with the skills and knowledge to better support the transition from primary school to high school.
- Better prepare young people with the skills needed to succeed in the workplace and support them getting into employment.
- Inform and educate young people about a wide range of careers.
- Provide young people with opportunities to apply their knowledge and understanding in practical experiences with employers.
- Engage employers to support the Programme across MediaCityUK, Manchester City Centre and more widely.

Within the 18 months of the project running, we have been able to reach a total of **4,379 young people** aged 10-16, enabling them to achieve great outcomes by **reaching or exceeding all our outcome targets**.

We have achieved these through a variety of projects and activities including: The Leap Project, Mock Interviews, Mentoring, Personal Finance Day's, STEM Day's, World of Work and Workplace Visits.

Below is an outline of the original target outputs and objectives that were set at the start of the funding agreement. There is also the inclusion of our current achieved outputs and outcomes. This is representative of the midway point of the three year agreement.

Targets	Jump Forward	Stretch Further	Reach Higher
Target Outputs (18 Months)	750	2250	2625
Actual Outputs Achieved (18 Months)	490	2060	1748
90% of students will feel more equipped for their next steps forward.	96%		
90% of students will be able to identify a skill they have either learnt or developed		95%	
90% of students will feel more empowered in developing their skills.		95%	
100% of students will encounter employers from different industries across Greater Manchester.			100%
90% of students will feel more inspired through an experience with the World of Work			97%
90% of students will be more prepared for making decisions about their future.			94%

Jump Forward

It's time to take that next step and leap forward confidently. Focusing on supporting students during critical transitions, whether within the educational landscape or venturing into the world of work. Armed with practical tools and strategies taught through our peer-to-peer mentoring, participants will navigate their path with resilience and readiness. Students can also take part in our Transition Days, focussed on bringing a future year group together and become familiar with their new locations.

LEAP Project

The LEAP project aims to train and up-skill year 8 students to deliver their own peer-to-peer support programme with year 6 students moving into year 7. Year 8 students take part in a 12-week programme where they will learn some of the necessary skills to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate their own projects that help support year 6 students with some of the challenges and fears of moving to high school.



So far, the Leap project has engaged with **490 students** between the ages of 10-13. Over the last 18 months, the project has:

- Engaged with **two high schools** and **eight different primary schools** in Salford.
- Upskilled **96 year eight students** with peer mentoring skills as well as transferable skills like communication, teamwork and problem solving.
- Of those 96 students, most feel they are more confident and better equipped for their next steps through education.
- Supported **394 primary students** to feel more equipped and confident for their next steps into high school.

Stretch Further

Challenge yourself and cultivate life skills that extend beyond the classroom. Dedicated to pushing students beyond their comfort zones, preparing them for the complexities of work and life. Whether gearing up for employment through a mock interview activity, mastering personal finances through an enterprise day, or enhancing emotional intelligence through some of our employer-led mentoring, this theme ensures a holistic approach to personal and professional development.

Mock Interviews

For many of the young people we engage with, our mock interviews activity is their first experience of participating in an interview. Through this activity, students experience a one-to-one interview with an employer within our ever-growing professional network, whilst hearing first-hand feedback of ways to continue developing and preparing for a job or college interview in the future.

So far, our mock interview activity has engaged with **1,718 students** between the ages of 14-16. Over the last 18 months, this activity has:

- Engaged with **10 different mainstream high schools** and **one alternative provision** across Salford, Manchester, Tameside, Bolton and Bury.
- We've provided **13 individual events** in total.
- 99% of students** evaluated said they had learnt a new skill or developed an existing skill when taking part in a mock interview.
- 96% of students** evaluated said they felt more confident about their futures and felt they would use the skills learnt from the mock interview activity they took part in.



Enterprise Days

Our Enterprise Workshop Days are a fun and engaging way to bring a real world topic to life. Whether it's a STEM Day or a Personal Finance Day, these workshops allow students to explore a variety of different skills, whilst learning some tips and tricks to help them develop for the working world.

So far, our enterprise day activities have engaged with **241 students** between the ages of 11-16. Over the last 18 months, this activity has:

- Engaged with **one mainstream high school** in Bolton, provided **one individual event**.
- **97% of students** evaluated said they had learnt a new skill or developed an existing when taking part in an enterprise Day.
- **88% of students** evaluated said they felt more confident about their futures and felt they would use the skills learnt from the enterprise day activity they took part in.

Mentoring

The main aim of the mentoring programme is to enable yR8 and YR9 students to discover the skills and attitudes needed to successfully transition from education into the world of work. Through interactive activities and discussions with groups of students, volunteer business mentors will share their stories and help equip students with the essential skills needed for work.

So far, our mentoring project have engaged with **101 students** between the ages of 12-14. Over the last 18 months, this activity has:

- Engaged with **five mainstream high schools** and **one alternative provision** across Salford, Trafford, Tameside and Bolton.
- We've provided **seven individual projects** in total.
- **99% of students** evaluated said they had learnt a new skill or developed an existing when taking part in an enterprise Day.
- **96% of students** evaluated said they felt more confident about their futures and felt they would use the skills learnt from the enterprise day activity they took part in.

Reach Higher

Aspire for more and gain insights into your future potential in the working world. Offering students first-hand experiences and opportunities to explore professional landscapes through our World of Work activity, build networks, and venture into workplaces across Greater Manchester through an employer-hosted visit. This theme inspires ambitious goals, encouraging students to set their sights higher and embrace the possibilities that lie ahead.

Workplace Visits

Understanding the workplace is important to decision making for young people. Through these visits, students have an opportunity to not only understand what the working world looks like day-to-day, but students have the chance to meet and engage with employers in the workplace, whilst understanding through practical activity what it takes to do the job.

So far, our workplace visits have engaged with **119 students** between the ages of 12-15. Over the last 18 months, this activity has:

- Engaged with **two mainstream high schools** and **two alternative provision** across Salford, Stockport, Manchester and Bury.
- We've provided **11 individual workplace visits** in total, working with **seven public and private sector partners**.
- **99% of students** evaluated said they felt inspired for the future through encountering the workplace and employer when taking part in a workplace visit.
- **98% of students** evaluated said they felt more confident about their futures and felt they understood the working world better from the workplace visit they took part in.



World of Work

Imagine a careers fair, mixed with speed dating – this is our World of Work activity! Students have the opportunity to speak with a variety of employers from different industries about different job roles, what the industry is like, the qualifications that might be needed and more. Students also take part in a short group activity to help highlight an aspect of business or industry being spoken about.

So far, the world of work activity has engaged with **1,629 students** between the ages of 12-15. Over the last 18 months, the project has:

- Engaged with **10 high schools** and **one alternative provision** across Salford, Bury, Stockport, Trafford, Manchester, Tameside and Bolton.
- We've provided **13 individual activities** in total.
- We've engaged with a large amount of private and public sector businesses, generating over **100 volunteer engagements**.
- **87% of students** evaluated said they felt inspired for the future through encountering an employer when taking part in an world of work activity.
- **92% of students** evaluated said they felt more confident about their futures and felt they understood the working world better from the World of Work activity they took part in.



Case Study: World of Work

Discovering a parallel passion: World of work provides the perfect space to discover an array of opportunity that young people are not often exposed to. One volunteer was able to provide an alternative context and possible pathway for a young person's dream.

As the raising aspirations team, we offer a 'World of Work' activity hosted within our partner schools as part of our Kickstart Your Future fund. During this activity students are provided the opportunity to carousel around several business volunteers who discuss their own personal pathways to employment, their current roles and the wider industry within which they operate. The students can engage in conversation through questions and miniature activities relevant to the industry.

In July we hosted our 'World of Work' activity at Harrytown Catholic High School in Stockport. This specific event provided 167 students with 5 professional encounters. For some students it's a case of igniting a spark, however for others who have current interests and career goals in mind, this can sometimes cause a natural reduction in engagement. Despite this, one student had the courage to ask about potential pathways into an alternative career. Our volunteer was a representative of a construction company who was then asked, 'how can I be an animator'. I was so impressed with the response of the volunteer aligning the potential opportunities like animation that are present in the construction industry. From 3D visualisers to simulation specialists, there is space for those with an interest in animation to enter the vast world of construction.

The importance of this activity is its ability to bust 'industry myths' and provide exposure and further understanding of employment to the students. Exposure to alternative avenues can widen the prospects of our young people. This is especially important where some industries can seem increasingly saturated from the outside or can present outwardly just one fixed image of success when we know the reality is many of us as didn't even know our current careers were an option. The volunteer within this case has now provided increased opportunities for the young person to explore. The same volunteer also explained of her own professional development throughout the day. This activity creates a meaningful interaction and provides skill development of both the current and future workforce.

"Gave me confidence as the day went on" – Volunteer

"Students have gained knowledge about the different (and often overlooked) skills/qualifications needed for areas of the labour market" – Teacher

Case Study: Mock Interviews

The mock interview activity is a really important opportunity for students to take part in. Whether it's for a volunteering opportunity, work experience, college or university, or for a job, experiencing interviews is an inevitable part of life which is why having a 'practice' is so important.

Understanding how to interact with a business professional, how to present yourself in an interview, how to communicate and listen to what is being asked, all come hand in hand with the experience. Interviewers are also able to provide students with constructive feedback, so that students are able to go away and work on improvements so that the next time they are faced with an interview they have the knowledge and skills to do the best they can.

In January we had a fantastic mock interview morning at Irlam and Cadishead Academy, with over 100 year 10 students taking part in a mock interview with our fantastic business volunteers.

I wanted to highlight one particular interview that I observed with a student whose first language was not English. I noticed that the volunteer was passing a phone back and forth between herself and the student and when I later asked the volunteer about this, she shared that the student was nervous and struggled to communicate in detail, so she decided to conduct some of the interview with the support of google translate. She was able to learn a lot more about the student and they were able to provide much more detailed responses.

I think this was a really great moment to see. The student was still able to take part in the interview, with just some small adjustments made, to make them feel more comfortable and at ease. The interviewer came up with an alternative way to move forwards with the interview and allow the student to take part in an experience that they can later reflect on and learn from.

Every student that takes part in one of our activities will take something valuable with them. Whether it's a skill that has been learnt, a confidence boost or a very small interaction that makes them feel more prepared for the next opportunity that is presented to them. No student's experience is the same, and this just highlights how important it is to provide them with opportunities to prepare them for their future.

"I have learnt better communication skills". -Year 10 Student

"I've learnt to use my confidence in an interview for a positive outcome". – Year 10 Student



Stay updated,
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