



James Rennie School Careers Day

James Rennie School is an outstanding school for pupils aged 3-19 who have severe or profound learning needs and live in north Cumbria. The school, located on California Road in the Kingstown area of Carlisle, has a communications specialism which supports all pupils to make outstanding progress. The school community is all-inclusive and looks to push each individual to fulfil their potential.

The school wanted to create an opportunity for their students to find out about job opportunities and for local businesses to meet their students and discover what a valuable contribution to their workforce they could make.

After some delays and postpones due to Covid, the careers day took place on 16 September 2021.

The school caters for a wide range of abilities, and it was vital the event was inclusive. Businesses and organisations attending were encouraged to ensure they offered interactive activities. There were some creative and exciting examples including Pirelli, who replicated part of the tyre making process, and Carlisle United with a 'beat the goalkeeper' activity.



All the students walked around the stands and spaces to explore; for some this was a sensory experience, for others an opportunity to find out more about the businesses and organisations attending and the careers opportunities available.

Each group of students was given an 'Event Passport' and had to collect stickers from the businesses to encourage a visit to each stand.

The event was supported by 18 organisations including Cumbria County Council, Carlisle United, People First, Tullie House, Carlisle Brass, Pirelli, Tarn Wealth Management, Cumbria Constabulary, Cumbria Fire Service and Caroline Pett Coaching. ITV Border and BBC Radio Cumbria also featured the Careers Fair in their news reports helping to raise awareness more widely.

Many of the staff and visitors commented on how special the day was and the buzz created in the school. Those students who were thinking about the world of work felt the day had improved their knowledge about local job opportunities and careers available to them.

