

# inspire!

THE EDUCATION  
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP  
FOR HACKNEY

## Inspiring Opportunities in Hackney



## 2008–2009 Primary Programme Report



Linklaters



Berrymans Lace Mawer  
SOLUTIONS

LLOYDS  
THE WORLD'S LEADING  
INSURANCE MARKET

## Introduction

***“We will, of course, continue to use Inspire! to enrich our curriculum in the future as we greatly value the opportunities they make available to our children, from reading and maths volunteers to workplace visits and all the initiatives in between.”***

- Deputy Headteacher, Lauriston School

The 2008/9 school year has been enormously successful for Inspire's primary school service. For a fourth consecutive year, we have continued to substantially increase the number of children benefiting from our rich menu of programmes and activities, with 9,630 children at 42 schools participating – a 32% increase on 2007/8. The quality of our service has remained a key priority and we were delighted that 100% of primary schools returning a survey in July rated our delivery as either 4 or 5 (where 5 is excellent) for each programme. This report gives an overview of the scale and impact of our activity over the year and outlines our key challenges and achievements.



## Background

Inspire! was established in 2004 as an independent, charitable Education Business Partnership, to provide Hackney schools with a high impact programme of education-business link and work-related learning activities. We aim to inspire, support and open doors for young people, giving them access to a world of choices and opportunities that may otherwise have remained out of reach. Through providing local and City organisations and their employees with opportunities to actively support schools, FE colleges and young people, we aim to raise young people's achievements and aspirations, develop their motivation and skills for the world of work and increase their ability to choose and achieve positive career, life and learning goals. These aims are particularly important at primary school since children's experiences, achievements and the beliefs they form at an early age are often highly significant in influencing their future life chances.

## Overview of the 2008/9 school year

***“I am delighted to be working with Inspire! on this project. They are one of the best providers for these types of opportunities. Inspire! are very thorough, interested in all the volunteers and have an excellent ‘after care’ policy.”***

- Volunteer Manager, Deutsche Bank

Having set ourselves high standards in previous years, our key objective for 2008/9 was to maintain the quality of our service delivery and satisfaction amongst our

stakeholders, whilst increasing the number of children able to benefit from our work. Schools that we have had long-standing relationships with continue to embed Inspire! programmes in their yearly plans and curricula and we were successful in increasing our engagement with several schools that we had not previously worked with on an intensive basis.

The year did hold some challenges for us. In particular, the financial crisis posed a major test as so much of our work relies on the input of City businesses as well as smaller local employers, all of whom have suffered to some extent from the economic downturn. We were determined not to let the situation impact too greatly on our programmes and put huge efforts into engaging with a much larger number and range of employers, particularly for our Work Week programme and Education-Business Link Brokerage Service.

The lack of statutory funding for education–business link work in primary schools remains a difficulty but we were pleased to secure financial support from the Learning Trust, Team Hackney and two of the borough’s Excellence in Cities Action Zones. We also received support from a number of corporate donors including City of London Corporation, Linklaters, Man Group, Berrymans Lace Mawer and Lloyd’s. We are exceptionally grateful to these funders for their assistance, without which we would be unable to continue our primary work.

In total, we supported 72% of Hackney’s nursery, primary and pre-11 special schools, with 18 schools taking part in our Work Week programme, 24 schools accessing our Education-Business Link Brokerage Service and 22 schools receiving the support of reading, maths and/or chess mentors through our Primary Mentoring programme. By the end of the school year, we had involved 755 volunteers from 155 companies and public organisations in bringing the curriculum to life and giving children in Hackney a powerful insight into the world of work.

***“Work Week is a great experience for the school. Many children do not have parents in work and therefore Work Week is very important for them.”***

- Deputy Headteacher, Orchard School (Work Week)

***“I’m very impressed with how Inspire! has helped my class. Great work!”***

- Teacher, Sebright School (Brokerage Activity)

***“We have been so lucky with Inspire! They give us a lot of resources and support. It makes our lives really easy.”***

- Trainee Solicitor, Berrymans Lace Mawer (Primary Mentoring)

## 2008/9 Outcomes

Programme	Schools	Pupils	Volunteers	Employers / activity providers
Work Week	18	5,286	176	99
Primary Mentoring	22	547	579	22
Brokerage Service	24	4,978	N/A	39
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9,630*</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>155</b>

\*Figures given for pupils may count the same individuals more than once if they have participated in Primary Mentoring and an activity organised through our Brokerage Service.

## Work Week

*“A brilliant opportunity for the children to get a glimpse into the world of business and how their education will actually impact on their later careers.”*

- Teacher, Millfields Community School

Following our expansion of Work Week last year into the East Hackney Schools Consortium and Clapton Community of Schools Project EiC Action Zones, we were pleased to continue the delivery of our flagship primary programme with 14 schools in these two groups as well as St John the Baptist, St John of Jerusalem, Thomas Fairchild and Woodberry Down schools. A total of 5,286 children from 18 schools took part in Work Week between October and July.



Work Week is a high impact programme offering progressive learning opportunities for all children in a school's cohort and has been designed to raise children's awareness of career opportunities, show the links between learning in school and success in later life, develop children's financial capability, and develop their sense of responsibility and skills for co-operation, enterprise and problem solving. Each year group is involved in a different themed programme of work, such as "Jobs in our Community" for Year 2 and "Literacy and Numeracy at Work" for Year 4, delivered through focused daily classroom sessions, in-school workshops with world of work visitors and visits to local places of work.

A major development this year has been the introduction of a programme of work for the Foundation Stage. The Nursery programme – ‘Using our senses at work’ – explores how our senses are used in various job roles. Children took part in a range of hands-on activities, including role plays, listening to sound clips, singing work-related songs and sampling different foods as well as meeting volunteers from the world of work, such as chefs and vets. In Reception, children developed their understanding of the world of work through our ‘Jobs on the move’ programme. They explored a wide range of transport related jobs, taking part in a train and aeroplane role play, tracing the journey of a delivery van and creating a class collage of jobs on the water. After meeting volunteers with jobs in transport, such as bus and train drivers, cycle police, Navy officers, motorbike paramedics and canoeists, the children ended their week by surveying school staff about their travel to work.

We built on our work with Downsview and Ickburgh special schools this year and delivered bespoke programmes that met the complex needs of their students. For Downsview we adapted the ‘Jobs on the move’ programme which fitted ideally into the school’s wider topic of ‘Transport’. The highlight of the week was a visit to City Airport where children toured the venue and developed numeracy skills by measuring and weighing luggage. At Ickburgh, students followed a ‘Food and work’ theme, investigating where food comes from and finding out about jobs at the different stages of food production. They visited Kentish Town Farm, Tesco and Exceline East African Restaurant. Both schools gave excellent feedback on the impact of the programme.

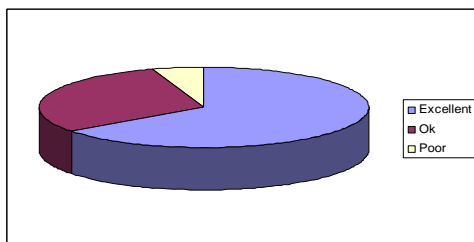


176 employee volunteers from 99 different companies and public organisations took part in Work Week this year. We faced a huge task in engaging enough employers to support the new Foundation Stage programme and Year 4 ‘numeracy at work’ visits but were successful in both areas and were particularly pleased to bring on board a large number of employers from the hospitality industry. By the end of the year we had engaged a range of top chefs and prestigious hotels and

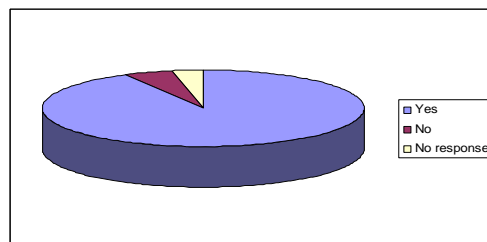
restaurants, including the Head Chefs from Sartoria, Paternoster Chop House and Coq D’Argent restaurants as well as the Hoxton Apprentice, Hoxton Hotel, Marriot West India Quay and Gary Rhodes’ restaurant, Rhodes 24.

Feedback from children, teachers and employers taking part was extremely positive with 64% of pupils giving Work Week the highest rating of ‘excellent’ and 92% of teachers stating that they would like to participate in the programme again.

**Pupil response to ‘What did you think of Work Week?’**



**Teacher response to ‘Would you like to take part again?’**



## Selected Work Week Feedback

- *“Lauriston School had an Ofsted inspection on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We were delighted to have been judged outstanding. In particular, we highlighted the extremely successful Work Week organised by Inspire! It was wonderful to be able to show evidence of Every Child Matters being delivered in ‘real world’ settings, particularly, Making a Positive Contribution and Achieving Economic Wellbeing.”*

Deputy Headteacher, Lauriston School

- *“My favourite part was designing the product because you got to use your imagination.”*

Yr 6 pupil, Morningside School

- *“I liked going to Linklaters because it was fun and we found out who uses numeracy in the world.”*

Yr 4 pupil, Southwold School

## Primary Mentoring

*“The one-to-one sessions give students a chance to really concentrate on reading and enjoy it. Working with one adult means they listen intently and try to impress, which raises achievement. When the volunteers are here there is a very nice atmosphere in the classroom. I look round and the children are engaged and happy to be here.”*

- Yr 6 teacher, De Beauvoir School

Despite the impact of the economic climate on our City companies, we have still seen a 22% increase in the number of employee volunteers signing up to our Reading, Number and Chess Partner mentoring schemes in 2008/9, with 579 volunteers from 22 companies providing one-to-one or small group support to 547 children. However, one company has been forced to pull out and a few schemes have faced a higher volunteer drop-out rate and less regular attendance from volunteers than in previous years as redundancies and pressure at work has grown. Network meetings with Primary Mentoring school and company co-ordinators from across Hackney and the City in January and June, have provided a useful forum for sharing ideas on how to retain volunteers and ensure their commitment in these difficult times.

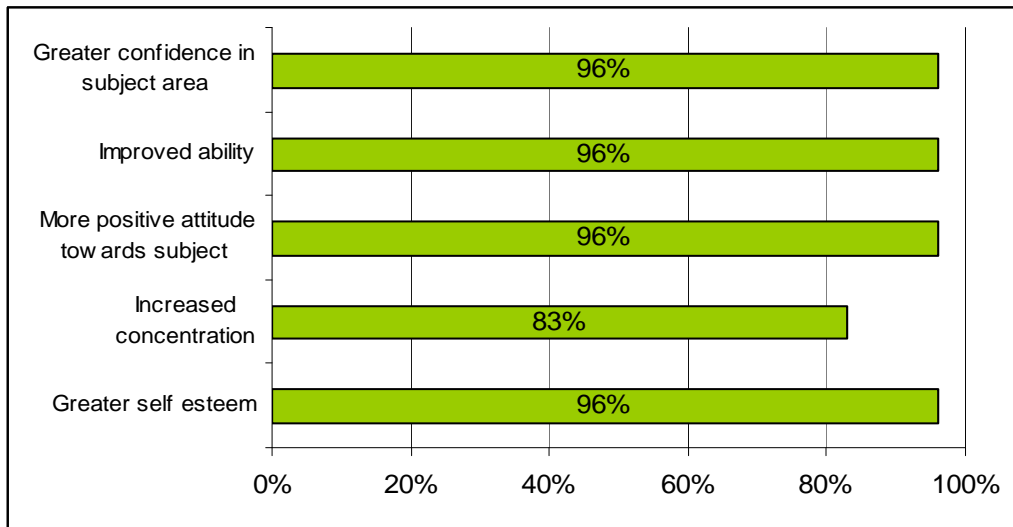


We continued to provide a high quality support service to companies and schools taking part in Primary Mentoring programmes and received excellent feedback from both, with 94% of the 37 school and company co-ordinators returning an evaluation form giving us the highest ratings for our overall support and guidance. This support included working with companies to recruit volunteers, delivering volunteer training sessions, undertaking List 99 and CRB checks, providing advisory support to school and company co-ordinators, facilitating partnership review meetings, providing guidance and delivery materials, and evaluating programme impact. We were particularly pleased that 99% of the 107 volunteers returning an evaluation form following their training session said that they were feeling confident about starting the scheme, with 87% rating the training ‘excellent’.



Schools continue to greatly value the involvement of their business partners in school life and as the chart below demonstrates, speak extremely positively of the impact of the mentoring sessions in developing the academic and social skills of their pupils.

**Teacher assessment of programme outcomes**



**Selected Primary Mentoring Feedback**

- *“If a Year 5 asked me about Reading Partners I would say, yes you should have one, because it gives you good support and my reading has improved a lot.”*

Yr 6 pupil, De Beauvoir School

- *“Children look forward to working with their UBS partners as it gives them the opportunity to interact with professionals other than teachers. One of the pupils selected has very low self esteem and often withdraws herself from class activities. Her behaviour is often disruptive and distracts from active involvement in learning. It is a struggle to keep her engaged. During the sessions she is focused, concentrating, attempts to solve problems and accepts support from her UBS volunteer – and smiles all the way through.”*

Teacher, Brook Community School

- *“I love it! (Reading Partners). The teachers select students they know will benefit and it’s nice to be able to give. I feel this can have a real impact in a school.”*

Volunteer, Berrymans Lace Mawer

## Education-Business Link Brokerage Service

***“It was all just perfect. Thoroughly well planned and resourced and organised. Thank you for a lovely day with great ideas for 3D art.”***

- Teacher, William Patten School (Professional Development Placement)

22 schools signed our service level agreement in 2008/9, giving them preferential access to the activities offered through our Education-Business Link Brokerage Service. The service researches, develops and promotes a wide range of opportunities for primary schools, their staff and pupils to benefit from business link, work-related and curriculum enrichment activities. Activities are advertised through the Inspire! Schools Bulletin each term and schools supported in accessing and preparing for these learning and partnership opportunities.



### Workplace visits

In total, we achieved the delivery of 85 visits hosted by 26 employers for 2,460 children in 2008/9. A significant amount of work had been undertaken in the previous year to expand the number of employers and education providers offering work-related and/or curriculum enrichment visits through our Brokerage Service, so our main focus for 2008/9 was to increase the spread of activities across the primary curriculum, in line with the requests we had received from our consultation with schools in June 2008.

New opportunities included a hands-on look at jobs in the medical profession at the Royal London Hospital, a focus on sports and the Olympics at Hackney Community College, making architectural models at Hut Architects, and a behind-the-scenes work-related tour and film screening at Rich Mix. Other brokered activities from previous years, back by popular demand, included visits to Homerton Hospital,

Billingsgate Seafood Market, Setpoint, Discover, Pizza Express, the Geffrye Museum and Thames Explorer Trust.

In addition, we organised for 118 children to attend Countryside Live in Lea Valley Park in September to learn about produce and jobs in rural areas and for 80 children to take part in the Lloyds' Football Tournament at Leyton Orient Football Club in July.

### **In-school activities**

3,007 children from 17 schools benefited from in-school activities delivered by 13 employers and providers in 2008/9.

We were delighted to be able to increase our offer of arts based activities including performances by the awe-inspiring Shaolin Monks in association with Hackney Empire, Christmas-themed productions by Chickenshed Theatre and music workshops with the Grand Union Orchestra. Another great success this year was our 'Read all about it' journalism project with professional reporter Harry Mount and Year 6 pupils at Holmleigh Primary School. Children found out about the stages and jobs involved in newspaper production before turning their talents to creating their very 'Holmleigh News' broadsheet.

### **Support for schools and teachers**

In partnership with the East London Business Alliance, we have enabled 3 schools to benefit from a 'Team Challenge', where teams of 40 volunteers in total from 3 companies have undertaken practical challenges to improve the school environment. Challenges included makeovers of a literacy room by Linklaters volunteers at Sebright Primary, the playground by Macquarie volunteers at St Dominic's Primary and a nature area at Parkwood Primary.

We also brokered 5 professional development opportunities in 2008/9 with teachers benefiting from courses with BEAM Education, the Visual Learning Foundation and CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

### **Selected Brokerage Service Feedback**

- *"The children learnt new historical and cultural facts about London. More importantly, they learnt that each Londoner has a vote and can take part in the decision making process. They were appalled to find out that only 45% voted!"*

Teacher, Grasmere School, (visit to the GLA)

- *"Our own council have an idea now how to get more out of the council meeting through fairness, consideration, focus, realism and focus. I also think it was good for them to perform under pressure and learn how to cope with it better."*

Teacher, Orchard, (debate at Hackney Council)

- *"I learned that if you practice hard and you put your mind to something you can achieve it."*

Student, Colvestone Primary School (performance by Shaolin Monks)