

LOOKING FOR THE LIGHTBULB MOMENT...

Barking and Dagenham have been running a STEM Professions Morning for more than 10 years. Twenty places are offered across the eight schools who have signed up to the traded service with Barking and Dagenham School Improvement Partnership (BDSIP).

The council's most recent event was held in December 2017, where 175 Year 8 and 9 students attended from six different schools across the borough. Presenters included architecture, forensic psychology, construction (quantity surveying and proposals), rail engineering, electrical engineering, physics, chemical research and IT. Universities and local employers always support this session very well.

The events always follow a similar format, where students are seated around a speaker in groups of up to 15. After hearing a 20 minute presentation, students move carousel style to the next speaker, so they hear from five different speakers and STEM areas during the course of the morning. These events for Year 8/9 are aimed at being 'light bulb' moments which inspire young people, and the evaluations are always positive.

The following week, students have the opportunity to attend afternoon sessions with the council to discuss the more practical aspects of getting into these roles either through higher education or via higher and degree apprenticeships for Year 12 Students. In STEM areas the council arranges Pathways to Medicine, Pathways to Engineering, Pathways to Accountancy, Pathways to Psychology and Pathways to Nursing and Midwifery – which are all supported by local universities and employers.

Many schools purchase a work experience service also delivered by BDSIP which offers many placements, both pre and post 16, in STEM areas. This is well supported by many local businesses but BDSIP would always appreciate the involvement of more as there is a great demand by students for work experience opportunities in this sector.

Barking and Dagenham also have similar opportunities for other sectors. For example, events similar to the one described above are arranged in the same format for Health Professions and Cultural and Creative industries.

For more information please contact:

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