



Secondary School Programme Impact Report

2022/23

Our Money Matters workshop equips students with the financial literacy skills needed to manage their money and budget effectively to prepare them for when they are earning in the future.

The Switch lead fun and interactive activities in which students explore financial terms and concepts, learn how much living in London really costs, and develop important skills for money management such as creating a budget.

In this hybrid session, business professionals join a video call to provide context on how they manage their money in their adult life and at work. Students also get the opportunity to ask business professionals any questions they have about money management and the world of work.

Project Reach



25

Events



57

Volunteers



1570

Students



10

Schools

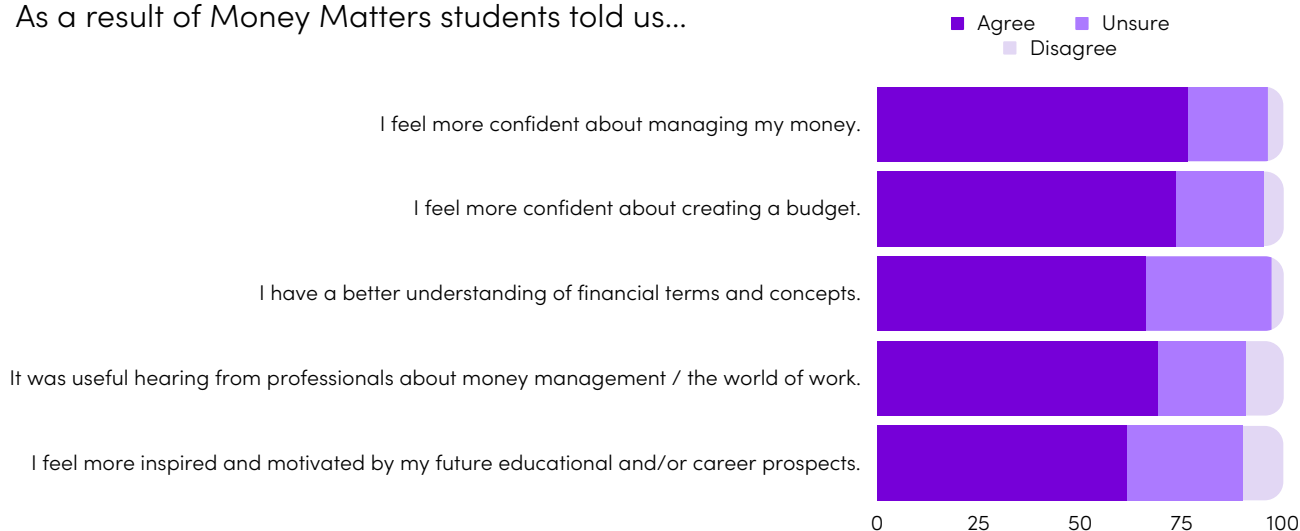


12

Partners

Student Feedback

As a result of Money Matters students told us...



On average...

Students rated Money Matters 4 out of 5.



"I learnt about different concepts of money and how to use it responsibly."

Year 7 George Green's Student, 2022-23

"It was nice to express my questions and answers and show my knowledge whilst learning from the volunteers and the teacher too."

Year 7 George Green's Student, 2022-23

"[I learnt] To save for the future to help myself and to know what I should spend. It taught me to always find the best deals."

Year 7 Langdon Park Student, 2022-23

"[I enjoyed] How devoted they were to teach us."

Year 7 Swansea Student, 2022-23



76%

of students feel more confident about managing their money.

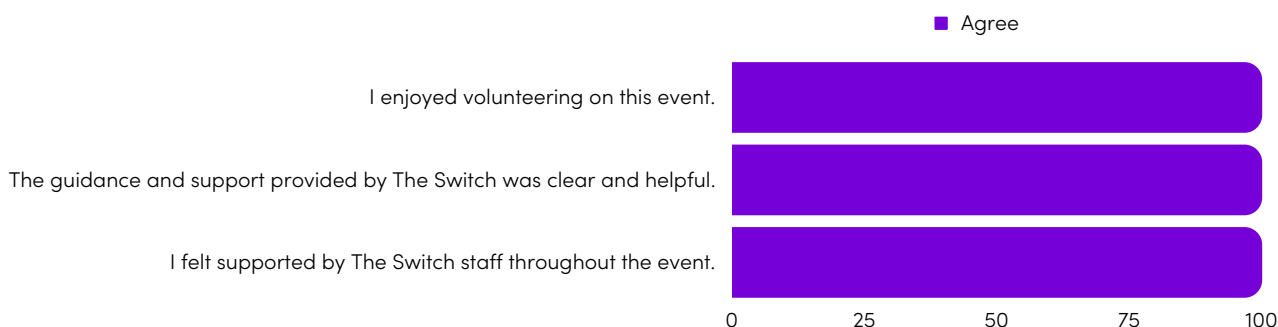


100%

of Money Matters Volunteers
would recommend volunteering
on this event to a colleague.

Volunteer Feedback

What our Volunteers said about Money Matters workshops...



"Nice to be able to help children understand the importance of personal finance. Particularly enjoyed the Q&A session."

Credit Suisse Volunteer, 2022-23

"I greatly value the opportunity to share very important and often under taught knowledge with the community."

Credit Suisse Volunteer, 2022-23

"Chris at The Switch was very helpful throughout - and the teacher facilitators were AMAZING. Looking forward to doing more with The Switch."

Eden Tree Investment Management Volunteer, 2022-23

"[I enjoyed] The Interactive session with speakers, facilitator and children. It was great to offer advice to children and hopefully this will have a positive impact on their future."

MS Amlin Volunteer, 2022-23

theswitch.org

Registered charity no: 1040962

Registered office: First Floor, Norvin House, 45-55 Commercial Street, London E1 6BD.



Skills for Success shows Year 8 and Year 9 students how the soft skills they are developing in and out of school will help them in their future careers.

Facilitators run a range of fun and engaging activities focusing on employability skills, workplace behaviours, and identifying strengths and weaknesses. Students learn about the skills employers are looking for, self-assess their own skill levels and learn about careers of the future.

Business professionals join the workshop remotely via video call for an insightful Q&A, giving context on the skills they use and have developed in their careers.

Project Reach



27

Events



63

Volunteers



1722

Students



10

Schools



18

Partners

Student Feedback

As a result of Skills for Success students told us...



On average...

Students rated Skills for Success 4 out of 5.



75%

of students have a better understanding of the skills employers are looking for.

"I understand what skills employers are looking for, and I feel this workshop helped me in lots of things to improve on."

Year 8 Stepney All Saints Student, 2022-23

"I enjoyed how interactive the presentation was and the involvement of the volunteers."

Year 8 London Enterprise Academy Student, 2022-23

"I learnt about leadership and developed my communication skills."

Year 8 Stepney All Saints Student, 2022-23

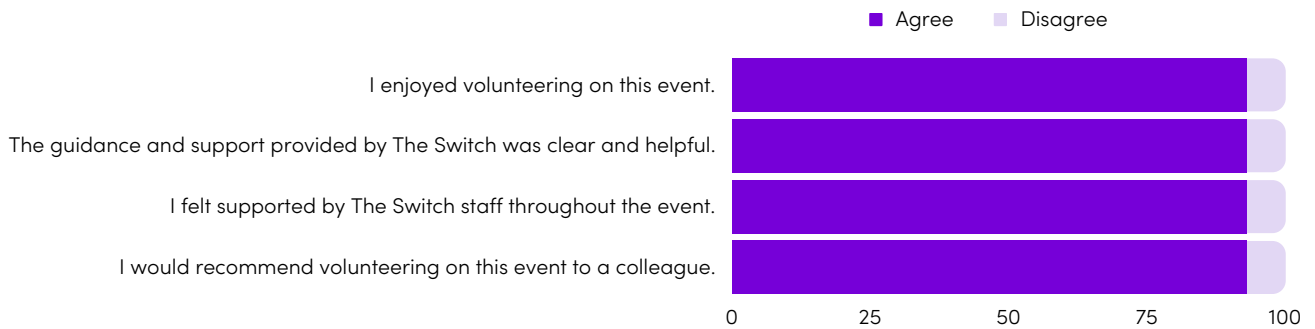
"It was brilliant! [...] the students loved the session! They were so engaged and wrote some positive messages."

Careers Lead Central Foundation Girls School, 2022-23



Volunteer Feedback

What our Volunteers said about Skills for Success workshops...



"I was stunned by the level of engagement from the pupils and the Chair did a great job of drawing them in."

Clifford Chance Volunteer, 2022-23

"[I enjoyed] Every step of it. Being able to speak on my job, hearing eager, smart students say what they believe is needed in my line of work was quite wonderful to say the least. It was a warm, pleasurable environment."

Skills for Success Volunteer, 2022-23

"I loved the focus of this experience. The teacher also did a fantastic job of making the discussion fun."

Reddie & Grose LLP Volunteer, 2022-23

"It was done from the convenience of my home via zoom. The responses from the students were a delight."

Barclays Volunteer, 2022-23


100%
of Skills for Success Volunteers
would volunteer with The
Switch again.



theswitch.org

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Options & Careers

Impact 2022-23

In our Options & Careers workshops, students explore different career pathways, how to make smart GCSE choices and what steps they can take after they finish Year 11 including apprenticeships, A-levels and T-levels.

Project Reach



88

Volunteers



10

Schools



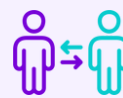
680

Students



10

Events

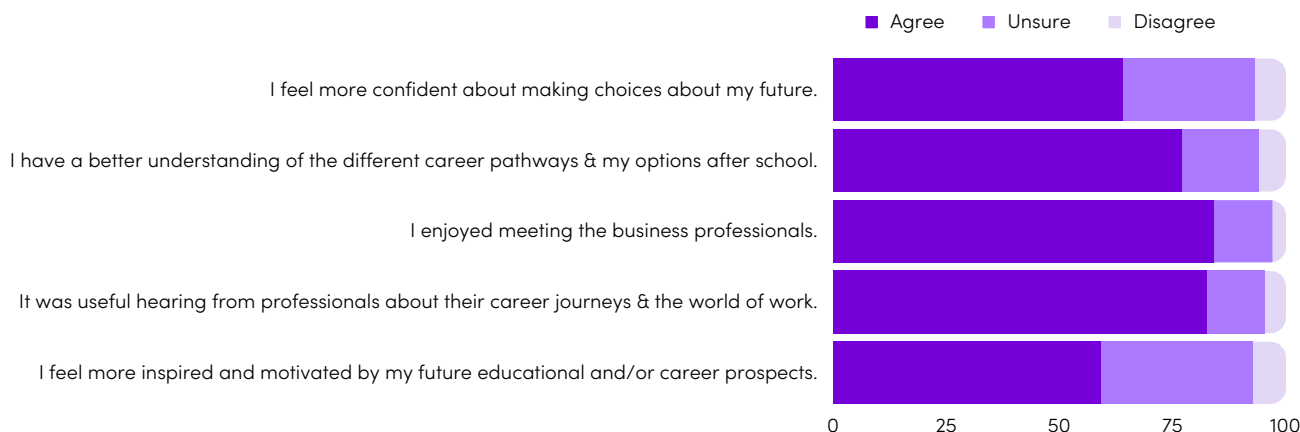


14

Partners

Student Feedback

As a result of Options and Careers students told us...



"I enjoyed meeting the volunteers and learning about their jobs and how they got there."

Year 9 Central Foundation Girls School Student, 2022-23

On average...

Students rated Options & Careers 4 out of 5.



77%

of students have a better understanding of the different careers pathways and options available to them.

"I learnt how to make better decisions around what jobs I might want to pick in the future."

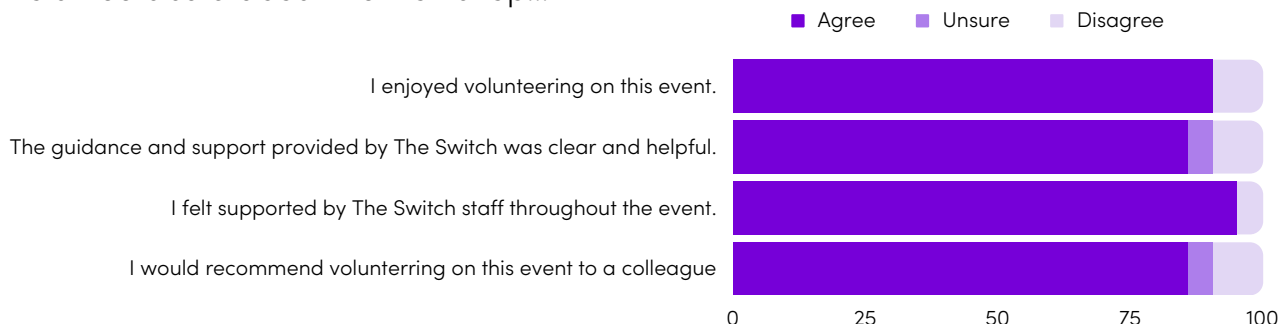
Year 9 Langdon Park Student, 2022-23

"I learnt that there are so many more options other than university and they can benefit you in so many ways."

Year 9 Oaklands Student, 2022-23

Volunteer Feedback

Volunteers said about the workshop...



86% of volunteers agree the guidance and support provided by The Switch and its staff was clear and helpful.

86% of volunteers would recommend this event to a colleague.

"We had some good conversations in the group and it felt like our contribution made a difference to a few of the children. It also emphasised to me how important it is for a company like ours to actively contribute to social mobility initiatives as the more switched-on students in the class deserve all the help they can get to imagine different careers."

KPMG Volunteer, 2022-23

"It was a great opportunity to share past experiences and help the students to make well-informed GCSE choices, it was very clear that the students who were engaged during the sessions were gaining a lot from them which is great to see."

Lloyd's Volunteer, 2022-23

On average...

Volunteers rated Options & Careers 4 out of 5.



In our mock interview programme, students take part in a 1:1 virtual interview with a business professional. In the interview, students are provided with verbal feedback and tips from business professionals who have experience of interviewing or being interviewed (or both!).

Project Reach



555

Volunteers



53

Companies



1923

Students



11

Schools



49

Events

Student Feedback

As a result of Interview Practice events students told us...



On average...

Our students rated the Interview Practice 5 out of 5.



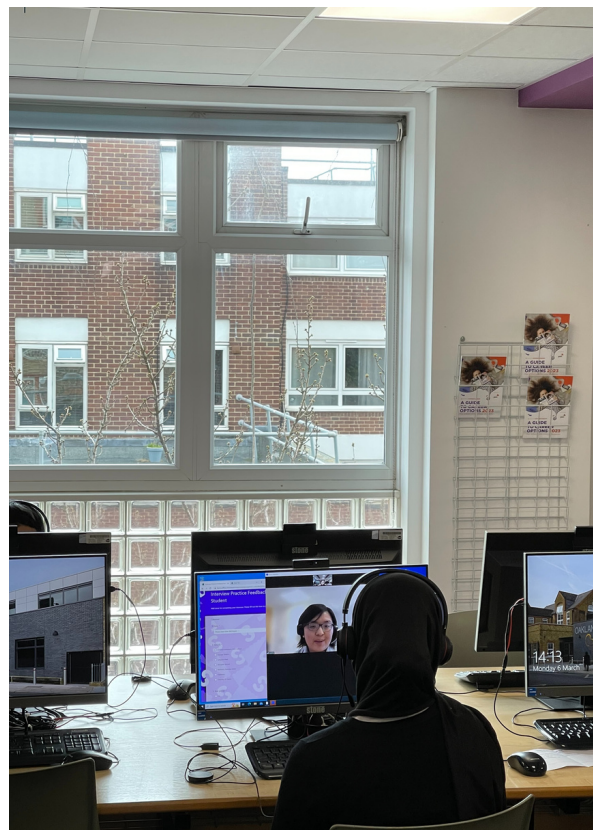


93%

of students would
recommend Interview
Practice to other students.

"I enjoyed speaking comfortably with the interviewer and talking about my interests. I also liked the feedback I received; it seemed very useful and specific."

Year 11 Morpeth Student, 2023-23



"I enjoyed talking to a person who has gone through the education system and found a career that they enjoy and is financially satisfied by what they do. The feedback given at the end was very insightful as it was something I would not have thought of and will help in my next interview."

Year 10 Langdon Park School Student, 2022-23

"What I enjoyed about the event was that I feel way more confident about talking to people in interviews. I also enjoyed talking about my strengths and weaknesses and how I can overcome my weaknesses"

Year 10 St. Paul's Way Trust School Student, 2022-23

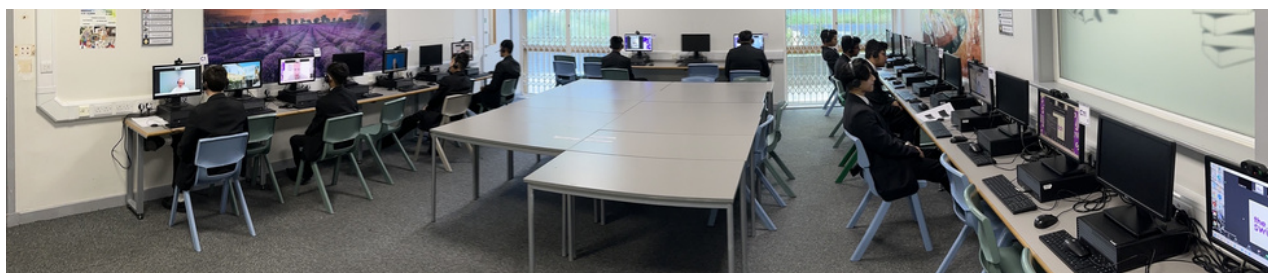
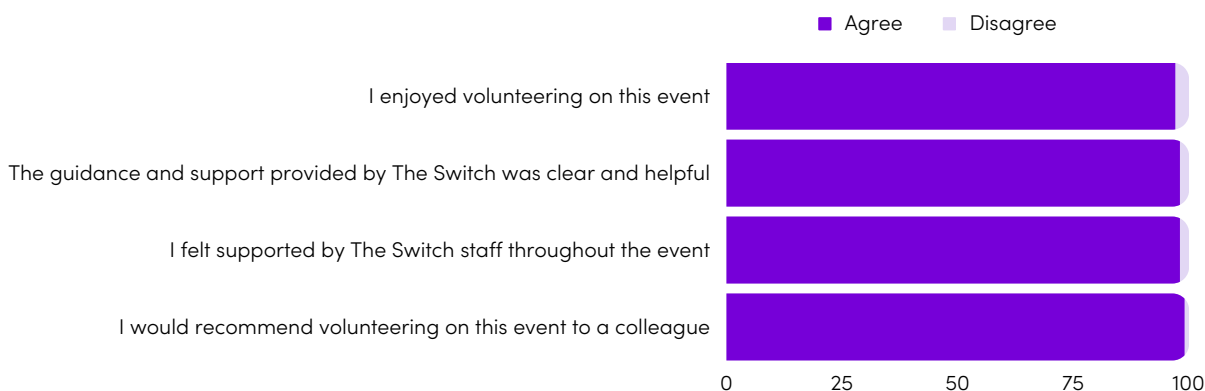
"I enjoyed how interactive the interviewer was and how precise and detailed the advice given was, which really helped me learn how to improve myself".

Year 11 George Green's School Student, 2022-23



Volunteer Feedback

What our Volunteers said about Interview Practice events...



"The students I met were such lovely polite young men. I have never done anything like this before and if I have helped grow their confidence then that is great. It was run very smoothly."

Barclays Volunteer, 2022-23

"My candidates were brilliant, really engaged and I hope that even if my feedback isn't helpful (I hope it is!), just the experience of them seeing what an interview is like should hopefully be helpful and allow them to believe in themselves!"

Canary Wharf Group Volunteer, 2022-23

"I enjoyed getting to know the student I had interviewed, knowing I was able to give advice and guidance in the working world was amazing. would love to volunteer again in future."

Clifford Chance Volunteer, 2022-23

On average...

Volunteers rated our Interview Practice event 5 out of 5.



Our workshop prepares students for the many stages of the recruitment process to help them understand how to stand out from the crowd. The workshop is split into two main areas – CV Skills workshop to help students develop their CV writing skills and a mock assessment centre.

Project Reach



786

Students



6

Schools



19

Companies

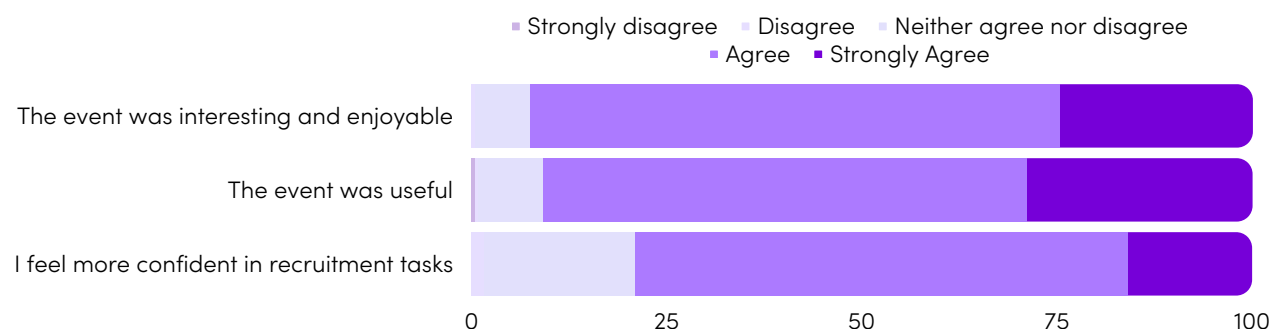


57

Volunteers

Student Feedback

As a result of CV students told us...



"I enjoyed taking in new information and discussing tips and tricks for a CV with an employer."

Oaklands Student, 2022-23

"I enjoyed the group task, enjoyed debating and working with my team members."

George Greens Student, 2022-23

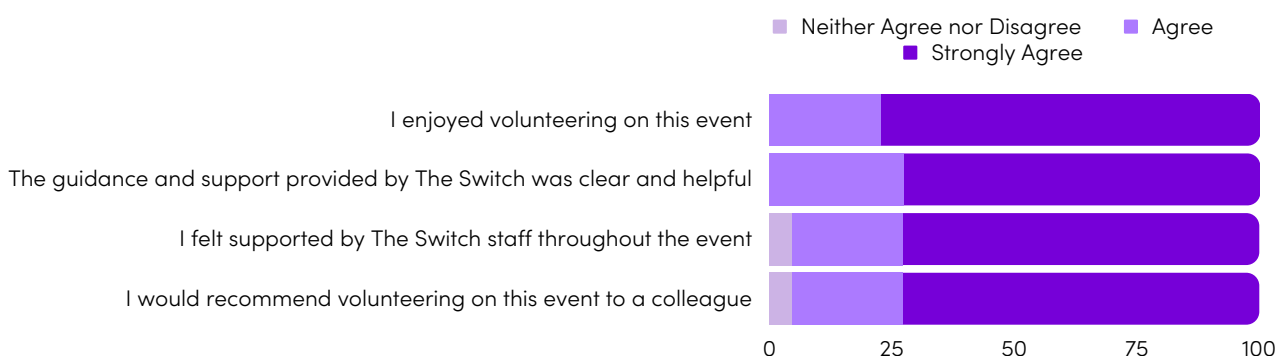
On average...

Students rated the workshop 4 out of 5 stars



Volunteer Feedback

Volunteers said about their experience...



"Event was clearly well planned and ran smoothly. Students were managed well by Nessa in our group, and real world scenario was built in the room (as close to real world as possible, anyway!)."

Elixirr Volunteer, 2022-23

"I enjoyed getting to know the pupils and see their potential even though they can't see it in themselves yet."

Bank of England Volunteer, 2022-23

"I enjoyed interacting with the students - answering their questions and providing them with guidance on how to achieve their goals."

Bank of England Volunteer, 2022-23



On average...

Volunteers rated the workshop 5 out of 5 stars



Mentoring sees volunteers from a range of organisations meet in-person, once a month, with a young person from Tower Hamlets (aged 14-17), supporting them to make key decisions about their future career and develop crucial employability skills.

Project Reach


200
mentors


200
mentees


14
schools


14
businesses


970
mentoring sessions

Student Feedback

As a result of mentoring, students told us...



On average...

mentees rated mentoring 8 out of 10.





93%

of mentees would recommend mentoring to other students.

On average, students would now rate themselves the following out of 5:

Communication	★★★★★
Critical Thinking	★★★★★
Organisation	★★★★★
Problem-solving	★★★★★
Independence	★★★★★

"My mentoring experience was very helpful into branching out my decisions about where I want to work or what I want to do after secondary school like going to 6th form or an apprenticeship, he also helped me write a practice CV for reference if I ever make an actual one in the future."

Year 10 Bishop Challoner student 2022-23

"I enjoyed the mentoring programme as I have learnt many things I believe I wouldn't have noticed such as critical thinking is key to attract employers. Working with my mentor was great. The discussions were meaningful and very informative. Based on the information given, I have applied to work experiences and achieved acceptances from majority of them."

Year 12 Central Foundation Girls' School student, 2022-23



Student Spotlight

Malaika, Year 12 Morpeth School

Malaika was paired with a mentor from Aon, she has always dreamed of moving out of London, but wasn't sure about her options, now she's considering a degree-apprenticeship in Leeds or Glasgow.

'I think before Mentoring I would just get overwhelmed with everything, but I've learnt how to tackle one thing at a time. I definitely feel more confident, and I understand better what employers want and what skills they are looking for.'

My mentor helped me raise my aspirations and taught me what kind of work environments I'd be okay with and helped my understanding of what a working career would look like.'

When asked about how she feels about her future now, she said:

'I feel more confident in myself and my future, I feel like whatever I do I will be able to make the most out of it. Even if I think I want to do architecture now and I do things to get into that career, if I decide to go into a different career, I can use those skills and put them to use for something else.'

Volunteer feedback

Mentors said about their mentees...



71% of mentors agree that they have developed their ability to motivate and develop a young person.

94% of mentors would recommend mentoring to a colleague.

"I believe my mentee benefitted from the scheme as she didn't hold back when having conversations which was very beneficial to me as I could gauge the situation and give the right advice she needed. I also believe I improved in talking to a student by being understanding and using the right words to talk to them."

AECOM volunteer, 2022-23

"It was lovely to be able to help a young person realise what skills they already have. My mentee was lovely and we built a good relationship. I wish her well with her future."

Verisk volunteer, 2022-23

"I liked being able to help my mentee to find his passion and career path. And I could see how down to earth he became after just a couple of sessions and how he quickly realised that hard work is needed to achieve what he wants and is not just a click away. So it was to see him grow and understand better what he could expect from a professional environment and what is expected from him."

Clyde & Co volunteer, 2022-23

On average...

Mentors rated mentoring 8 out of 10.



Youth Voice places young people at the heart of The Switch's provision for Tower Hamlets. Students are invited to participate in a borough-wide youth advisory board focusing on careers development. Sessions provide a platform for feedback on what careers provision young people want and they hear from local employers on key employability topics.

Project Reach



17

Students



5

Schools

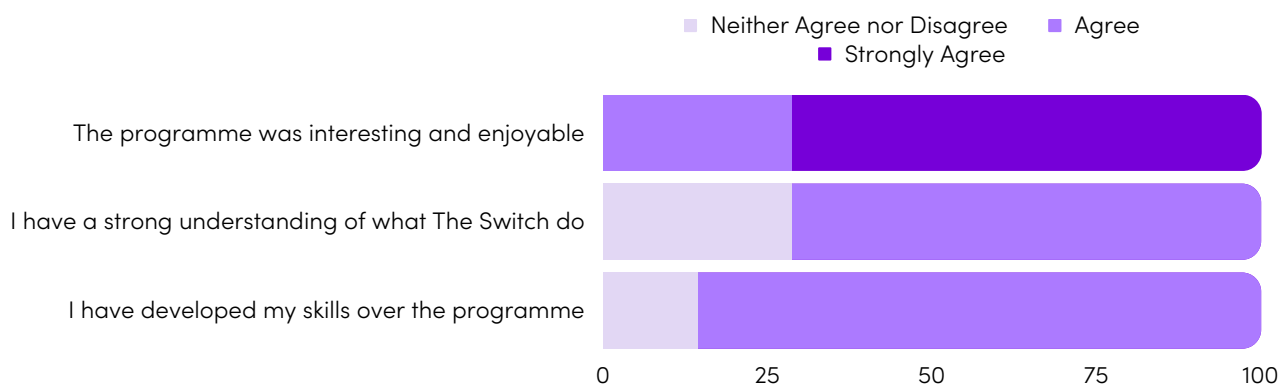


100%

feel empowered that they can influence The Switch's decision making

Student Feedback

As a result of Youth Voice students told us...



On average...

Students rated Youth Voice 5 out of 5.



A Year in Review

After a successful pilot in 2021-22, Youth Voice was launched as a new programme this year. It transforms students from just being service users to being co-creators, ensuring that what we offer is relevant for their age group, study plans and career aspirations.

This year, our cohort played a pivotal role in both reviewing existing programmes and in the development for new ones. Students reviewed our communication strategy with our Communications Coordinator – identifying ways we can improve our student engagement on our channels.

Students also got the opportunity to meet some professionals from KBC Bank and Toshiba – where they had an office tour and got to try some new products including printers and screens.

One key project the students participated in was testing our brand new Alumni Portal, which launched in Spring 2023. The session really brought to life the value of the programme for me personally, as students proved that sometimes our assumptions on what we think they want can be misguided.

During development our team had emphasised that the portal should be mobile friendly, believing students would primarily use it on their phones. However, students disagreed with us and told us “You don’t plan for your future on your phone!” Their feedback allowed us to concentrate our resources effectively towards desktop users.

It has been so lovely working with our Youth Voice members, seeing them grow in confidence and the new friendships that have flourished. I am so proud of their achievements. I share my heartfelt thanks to them for their contributions to The Switch.

Abi Whitehouse, Youth Voice Project Lead



I got given a leaflet when I went to mentoring by The Switch and I was really interested by it so I applied. Best decision ever!

Langdon Park Student, 2022-23

I enjoyed expressing my thoughts and opinions. How friendly and welcoming the team are!

Morpeth Student, 2022-23



Project Reach



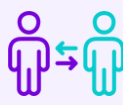
17

Virtual Work
Experience events



653

Students



115

Industry
professional
volunteers



32

companies



6

Schools

Our Virtual Work Experience programme provides students with valuable experiences of work within a choice of four diverse industries:

- **Business & Finance**
- **Construction, Architecture & Engineering**
- **IT & Technology**
- **Creative & Media**

Students gain invaluable insight into the world of work and engage with employers from their chosen sector, equipping them with essential skills to prepare them for hybrid working models and future work practices. During their placement, students will collaborate on a group project based on real-world data and activities, culminating in a virtual presentation to industry professionals where they will receive constructive feedback vital for their personal and professional growth.

Virtual Work Experience helps schools meet Gatsby Benchmark 6 - Experiences of workplaces.

On average...

Students rated Virtual Work Experience 4 out of 5.



Student Feedback

After participating in Virtual Work Experience, students told us...



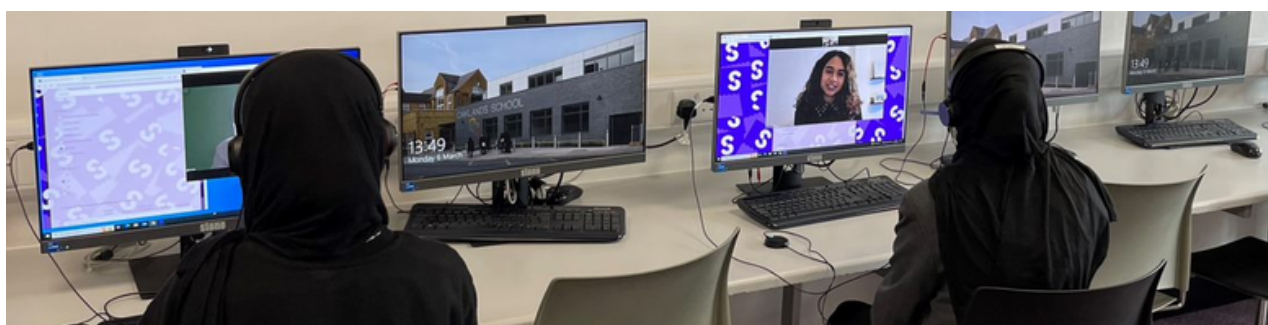
"I learned how to work professionally in teams which helped me develop my teamwork and communication skills."

Year 10 St Paul's Way Trust Student, 2022-23



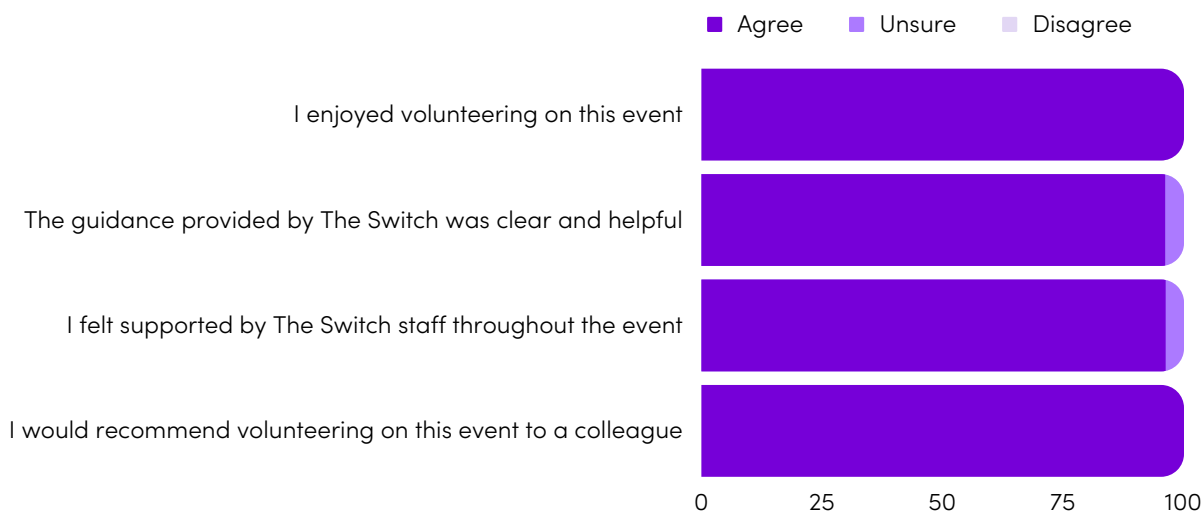
"I enjoyed presenting our work on the task to an industry professional who gave our team useful and helpful feedback."

Year 12 Mulberry Stepney Green Student, 2022-23



Volunteer Feedback

After volunteering on Virtual Work Experience, volunteers told us...



"It was nice to see the output from the kids and how accomplished they looked and felt once delivered."

Volunteer, Baringa

"The students had such thoughtful and well articulated questions that I definitely wouldn't have thought of when I was 14. I loved seeing their creativity shine through their presentations!"

Volunteer, Lloyds of London



100%

of volunteers would recommend volunteering on Virtual Work Experience to a colleague.



100%

of volunteers would volunteer for Virtual Work Experience again.



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