

- **School/College/Business:** Douglas Bader Short Stay School for Norfolk (SSSfN)
- **Topic:** Make your day count
- **Gatsby Benchmark(s):** 3 and 5

The SSSfN provides education and support for young people who have been permanently excluded or are without a permanent school place. Denise Anderson, Careers Lead for the SSSfN, recently organised some mock interviews for year 11 students at Douglas Bader School. The event was supported by two SSSfN Enterprise Advisers; Stewart Damonsing, North Norfolk District Council, and Andrew Shorthose, Kelling Heath.

During the day a one particular student was reluctant to engage in the process. After finally agreeing to be interviewed, accompanied by his teacher Mr Payne, Stewart interviewed the student. Although the student was unable to make eye contact because of his lack of confidence, through gentle questioning Stewart managed to partially engage the student.

Stewart's feedback explained that even though he lacked confidence, it was apparent from the interview that the student had good examples of transferable employment skills and with practice he could progress with the interview process. This was endorsed when Stewart pointed out that he had made significant progress, the student was in fact making eye contact and visibly listening. Stewart told the student "I believed in you. Well done I'm proud of you".

Mr Payne thanked Stewart and stated that "the engagement today was a massive step for this student". Stewart reflected "If I did one good thing today, it was to give this young person a massive confidence boost in preparation for the transition from education to work!"

For further details, please contact Katherine Flint, [katherine.flint@newanglia.co.uk](mailto:katherine.flint@newanglia.co.uk)