



**MARICOURT**  
CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM CENTRE

## PARTNERSHIP VOICE

### Careers Partnership Work

#### Moj Taylor- PUSH Talks

We have worked with Maricourt for ten years. We provide the Annual sessions to sixth formers on post-18 choices, year 10s via comedy / storytelling workshops, and more recently SEND students. All sessions are designed to develop students' abilities (and self-confidence) to make well-informed proactive choices on their futures, and an awareness and excitement to develop 21st century employability skills (including adaptability and resilience).

Communication, coordination and organisation is always brilliant. As a busy actor, public speaker and diver (and new dad) I always appreciate enquiries well in advance, with a clear outline of the background of the students and where their heads are right now (but also when we will be engaging them via a presentation or workshop) and the aims and objectives desired for the session, which are always accurate to what we deliver: a good sign of how strong the bond is between our outreach activities (content, style, relatable speaker) and the school's aims to support students. We've come to really know each other well over the years, and this also helps give our sessions a bespoke and on-point message (and tone) for all the listening students.

Maricourt has strong values which - as I've explained above - align with ours, and mine personally as a person who grew up in the area and was the 1st in his family to choose a higher education path. Danielle, who booked us for years via the careers team, has always had a passion for supporting the pathways of local teenagers, which came through right from our first phone call. Maricourt seemingly advocate what we advocate as the best form of education - a blended contiguous approach that involves education as a priority but equally wider life skill and social capital building activities, such as interactions with outside speakers, employers, and impartial outreach. Maricourt recognise how these wider activities, when blended with learning, help it not hinder it - and link it to the world of careers and professional (as well as personal) wellbeing.

I have always found the students really engage with our outreach. Particularly our delivery style: comedy and storytelling, when done well and appropriately, can help relax students and draw them in to considering ideas they may not have thought of, or new perspectives on careers, learning and choices. It helps that the teachers, tutors and careers team really 'get' what we do, and then ensure they followup the session with activities and conversations that repeat and enhance those same messages, in the days and weeks after a session, whilst there is still a 'buzz' around the activity. Maricourt are also great in ensuring the same speaker returns, to build a rapport with students and strengthen it over time with repeated interventions: it all builds a the trust not only in the messages being given out, but in students trusting the careers team and teachers have put this person in front of them.

I speak in various schools across Merseyside, as well as schools in well over half the counties in England. I always find Maricourt staff have an energy and passion which exudes care and attention to the students, from the moment they arrive, and they always seem to have time for them, no matter how busy they are. There is a strong community spirit I've noticed in my many trips to Maghull, and this comes across within the school, with everyone supporting each other - which has been paramount over the last 12 months of the pandemic. I've seen this energy extend to parents in the reception area too, when I've waited to meet the careers team.

### Paul Semple- Everton in the Community

Everton in the Community's Inspires team have worked with Maricourt for just over 3 years now, with the school being involved in the pilot of the programme.

The Inspires programme was piloted with the school and has continued to go from strength to strength each academic year. This has enabled us to provide bespoke support for students in the school, both on a one-to-one basis and small groups.

The school are so supportive of all the work we complete and are always keen to have us involved. When attending the school, staff are treated like members of staff and it is clear how much our work is appreciated and valued by both staff and pupils. This makes it a lot easier to plan and deliver our work and ensures that all our staff are filled with confidence before they even step foot in the school building.

In our experience, school staff are always willing to go the extra mile for the pupils in the school. Students will often feedback to our staff that they feel like they are well supported in both their studies, as well as their personal development. This level of support ensures pupils are all given equal opportunity to progress and reach their full potential.

For us, there is no areas of improvement needed, it is more of a case of continuing the positive work that you already do. The staff are so friendly, warm and welcoming and are always willing to go the extra mile to support us and the pupils we come in to contact with, so it is really important that this continues.

We find when attending schools that engagement will often depend on how the programme has been sold to pupils and what level of buy in the teaching staff have into our programme. In the case of Maricourt, students are always welcoming and open to learn from us. We find engagement is positive and we feel this is mainly down to the support and encouragement provided by staff. All the schools we work with want the very best for their students. The enthusiasm of the staff in the school to support pupils reach their full potential is commendable. The staff really buy in to what we have to offer, and this makes our job a lot easier when engaging with pupils.”

### **Joanne Huddart- Elevate Business Partnership**

Elevate EBP have worked in partnership with Maricourt Catholic High School for over 23 years, supporting them with their Careers Programme in a number of ways.

Over the years we have organised and delivered their Work Experience programme, Application Form Workshops and Practice Interviews, various enterprise days and mentoring programmes. We have included them in all of our ‘at risk of neet’ programmes and more recently we are supporting them via the Careers & Enterprise Company within our role of Enterprise Co-Ordinator from a strategic perspective.

We have always had a very professional and productive relationship with all of the designated staff within the role of careers over the years. This is due to the fact that school have always valued the role of careers education within the curriculum and therefore always resourced it extremely well.

School have always recognised the importance of careers within the curriculum, understanding the impact that this has on student attainment and raising aspirations, addressing stereotypical roles with careers and expanding the opportunities available to students, encouraging them to go into less obvious fields of work, often using their alumni links to support this.

Throughout all of our engagement young people from Maricourt have always been well prepared and taken part enthusiastically with a number of employer commendations over the years.

As a school they invest and support the young people from an holistic perspective ensuring students leave their education with the basis of a very good CV to take into the world of work alongside their grades. The passion & commitment for Careers from SLT has always been evident & outstanding.

### **Kevin Hornblower- Shaping Futures**

We (Shaping Futures) have been successfully working with Maricourt since 2018. We work with the school to deliver impartial Higher Education related IAG to their students. Our aim is to educate the students in what HE actually is, help equip them with the skills required to succeed in HE and support them in making informed decision about their future. We do this through a sustained programme of support which includes; classroom based sessions and presentations, interactive online content, visits to university campuses and 1 to 1 guidance interviews.

We highly value our relationship with Maricourt. We have a strong working relationship built on mutual trust and understanding of each other's needs and aims. Communication, coordination and organisation has always been conducted in a friendly, efficient and professional manner. Each member of school staff we have worked with have been helpful and have understood the value of the service we have been able to provide the school. When working with students we have found them to be engaging, highly motivated and keen to work with us. We look forward to continuing to develop our relationship with Maricourt, its staff and students.

## Wellbeing

### Laura Charlton- Cash for Kids

We have worked with Maricourt for around two years now. We have provided the pupils of Maricourt who are disadvantaged with gifts through our Mission Christmas campaign, provided meals to families financially affected by Covid as well as Easter eggs and new clothes and trainers, Cash for Kids also provided funding for families to receive vouchers so families could buy basic essentials. Maricourt also worked with the Bauer Academy (connected to Radio City Cash for Kids) and pupils were taught topical issues such as knife crime which the school funded. Maricourt have been brilliant with the communication, coordination and organisation, they are always quick to respond to our service offer, provide a comprehensive list which helps us with the mobilisation of providing our services. They are always on time, friendly, helpful and it is evident that they put the needs of their pupils first. They have also provided us with feedback which helps us to continue accessing funding to enable us to provide further support.

I think that you provide a bespoke, holistic, needs led and rights based approach when identifying the needs of your students, you look at the pupils as a family and make sure that those with younger siblings who may not go to your school are supported too, this is unique for a school. Maricourt go the extra mile, during Covid you delivered meals to families in need and kept in touch with them to make sure they had everything they needed so that their children could learn and develop effectively during the unprecedented times. You also provided a voice to Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham and Radio City News, asking topical questions and raising awareness about how the pandemic was affecting education.

Maricourt is unique and goes above and beyond for their school community, you provided a door to door food delivery service to families you knew would be struggling, many organisations and schools offered a collection service for this, but Maricourt knew this could be a barrier to those collecting meals and overcome this by travelling around the community and delivering. You go out of your way to make sure that no family is left behind.

I also feel that your quick response and can do attitude makes it easier for charities like Cash for Kids to work with, you work with us and overcome obstacles to make things happen. I would highly recommend Maricourt to any parent wanting to place their child in the school, the additional support is heart-warming and the staff at Maricourt don't just teach, they parent, they

support, they care for every family within their school. They also have signposted other schools in the locality to Cash for Kids, recognising that other schools need our help. As an ex pupil of Maricourt, I am extremely proud of how they provide the wrap around care that our local children and young people need.

### Judi Hastings- Time to Change

I have worked with Maricourt since 2019 Providing Mindset awareness and training for pupils and staff, both in person and virtually  
The school staff that lead the interventions have exceptional communication, co-ordination and organisation. I am always kept informed of plans, the staff involved are always keen to support and provide excellent co-operation.

Helping students understand how their thinking impacts their behaviours and actions will support them in future decision making, the foundation of understanding mindset can reduce unwanted stress and anxieties and promote solution focused thinking.

The level of engagement varies in each year group, that said, the teaching staff are fabulous at setting expectations and swiftly addressing any dip in those expectations, in my experience this has only been required for a small number of young people.

Maricourt is one of the best local schools I work with.

### Ben Towell- Talk the Talk Education

Talk the Talk Education have worked with Maricourt for approximately 1 year  
Talk the Talk Education provides a range of PHSE programmes to students that can be delivered on a 1:1 basis, or in a group setting. Sessions so far include Building Resilience and Self Esteem, Relationships and Sexual Health Education, Body Image and anatomy The school have been extremely accommodating and always student centred. The school have been and are extremely effective, organised and eager for us to approach subjects and topics that they know will benefit the students irrelevant of faith or culture challenges or additional learning needs or educational; obstructions. The students are at the heart of everything they do.

The openness and transparency that the school has with their learners promotes the values and behaviours of Trust, Respect and acceptance between student to student and student to teacher. The approach taken also equips students to make positive decisions in relation to their own wellbeing and helps them to understand the impact of poor choices on themselves and others.

The level of engagement is excellent, please see the stats below from Maricourt:

- 81% of students felt more resilient following the session.
- 81% feel they will be more effective in school as a result of the training.
- 85% will take their learning forward and make the relevant changes
- 79% said it would support them to cope and stay in school
- 89% would recommend the training to someone else