

Classroom Visit with Teach First & DHL

Young people can benefit hugely from meeting adults working in different sectors. These encounters can inspire them to think about their future goals and give them the skills they need to achieve them. Alongside volunteers from DHL, pupils from three of our partner schools have recently learned about the range of employment opportunities available to them in the logistics industry and considered their own career ambitions.



On Tuesday 3 November, 25 Year 11 Geography pupils from Rivers Academy in Feltham enjoyed a special lesson taught by Tony Cooper, Country MD UK and Nordics at postal and logistics company Deutsche Post DHL. Tony shared his personal career journey at DHL, where he began in 1988 sweeping the warehouse floor, before progressing on to become Sales Manager, then to his current role as Country MD for a major European area.

He asked the pupils, who are all currently considering their options after their GCSEs, about their own career aspirations, explaining that, "Logistics can offer career opportunities at all levels." Tony described the many roles and career paths that can be pursued within the logistics industry — from chefs and airline pilots to finance careers. He told the group that there are many opportunities available to them in this and any other sector, as long as they have the right attitude and desire to be successful.

Tony explained how useful the pupils' Geography skills are for the logistics work DHL does, relating how the company used their expertise to help ASOS, one of their biggest clients, to establish a new distribution centre in Berlin. This really engaged the Year 11 class, whose recent Geography lessons have focused on how cities become desirable as business, transport and tourism hubs. Geography teacher Ralph Chambers said, "Hearing how businesses make decisions about where to base their sites will help them understand more about how what they are learning. Seeing how thinking geographically is a key component to business success, was invaluable."

Tony enjoyed the opportunity to work with the students: *"It was great to experience the work of Teach First teachers, and see first-hand how they ensure young people are given the opportunity to achieve their goals."*

For more information about the partnership with Teach First or ways to get involved please contact Andy Button-Stephens at the DHL UK Foundation :

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