

2023

WORK EXPERIENCE PILOT REPORT



CITY VARIETIES
MUSIC HALL • LEEDS

The **GRAND**
Theatre & Opera House Leeds

HYDE PARK
PICTURE HOUSE
Est. 1914

Cover image: South Craven School students stood under lights on stage at City Varieties Music Hall



PROJECT AIMS

We understand the importance of sharing the workings of our industry to inspire the next generation to keep our stories alive. We saw a gap in work experience being offered and wanted to create a **bespoke project for Year 10 students that differed from the typical model** of shadowing one job role.

Our students from South Craven School had the opportunity to delve into the world of work with the aim of **increasing their skills, knowledge, confidence and motivation to pursue a future career in the creative industries.**

To fulfil these aims, we created a project strongly **linked to the statutory Gatsby Benchmarks**. 11 young people went behind the scenes of Leeds Heritage Theatres to learn about our rich history and the variety of job roles that exist within a theatre. This project aimed not only to foster a love of the arts, but also to **equip students with practical, transferable skills** to help them pursue a fulfilling career.



It has made me
consider wanting to
work in the arts



SUMMARY OF DELIVERY

Our week of delivery was split across 3 key focus areas:

Focus 1: Introduction to Leeds Heritage Theatres

Students participated in practical tasks and in-depth **backstage tours of the venues** to understand how they operate and the implications of running a business in historical buildings. Students **met with industry professionals in Q&As, demonstrations, talks**, and skills sharing, including a technical demo.

Focus 2: Team Project Brief

In teams, students responded to a project brief to programme a theatre season and **produce a mock show**. Project activities ranged from creating promotional materials alongside **Comms** to scheduling staff based on a show report with **House Management** to managing a **Finance**-related budgeting exercise.

Focus 3: Personal Development

Through drama exercises and games, students developed transferable skills and had the **opportunity to role-play real life scenarios such as interviews**. Self-reflection sessions supported students to track their own progress and **relate their learning to job applications, CV creation, and interview processes**.

TESTIMONIALS

Year 10 Students from South Craven:

"I found the week very useful. I learnt a great deal about what a workplace is like and **what skills and qualities [are] needed for working at a theatre.**"

"[The staff showed us] all the things an audience wouldn't see, giving us the opportunity to see their side at working at a theatre, and **learning about job roles I didn't know before.**"

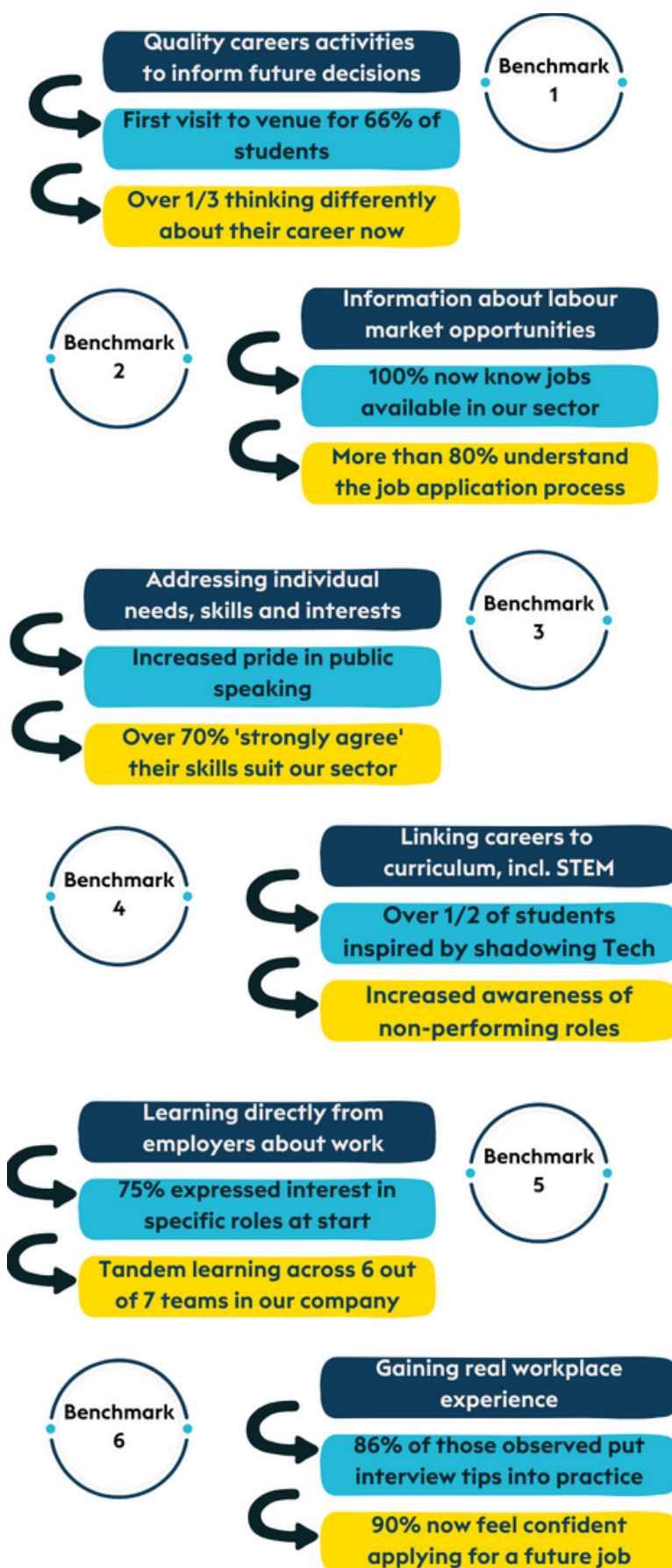


Maggie Burton, Flexible Learning and Careers Coordinator at South Craven School:

"The students really flourished throughout the week, it was amazing to see the **students in a working environment demonstrating the knowledge and skills they had developed throughout the week** and then presenting to professionals they were unfamiliar with - their self-confidence was amazing."



GATSBY BENCHMARKS AND OUTCOMES



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

The cost for up to 15 students to take part in our project-based week of work experience is £1000 (£200 per day).

A work experience week for your cohort can be booked at any point in the year with sufficient notice.

Our week of project activities has been designed with Gatsby Benchmark outcomes in mind.

The week of work experience is fully risk assessed and we have Employers' Liability Insurance to cover work experience.

Contact learning@leedsheritage theatres.com with any related queries or to register your interest in our 2024 offer.

It has made me consider
[my] future pathways and
made me feel more
confident with getting a job



Once in a lifetime
opportunity



All images (top to bottom): Students sat in the Leeds Grand Theatre auditorium; in a tech demo with senior technician; presenting their project work; stood under lights on stage at City Varieties Music Hall; stood on stage at Leeds Grand Theatre; and working in teams to budget their chosen production.



WANT TO SEE MORE?

