

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a careers initiative across Greater Manchester
Curriculum Provision	✓	Applied to a task sheet within a core curriculum subject
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a large, local superstore of a major chain
Reflective Young People	✓	Providing an opportunity for discussion about career paths
Informed Career Choices	✓	Illustrating job roles available at one local employer

Asda helps year 9 students discover that algebra can be applied in day-to-day working life

The teacher brief for a year 9 maths project at St Catherine's Academy in Bolton stated that, 'Pupils do not believe that they will use these skills in real life. Algebra can be a topic which most pupils cannot understand, as it seems extremely abstract with no real-world use'.

An approach to the community champion at the local Asda superstore resulted in a short, informal video interview with the 'Loss Prevention Colleague' that was shown in the classroom. In this, she described her career path, her day-to-day responsibilities and how maths skills are essential in her work and many other job roles within a large corporate employer.

A worksheet was based on questions taken from exam papers but adapted to the workplace situations at Asda. For example, they had to apply algebra to solve questions such as: 'Burnden Park is completing a refit of the store, including shelving for products. There is x amount of space available on the shelves for tins of beans. In the warehouse, there is $2x$ amount of space available for extra stock. The shop expects 60 tins to be on an incorrect shelf within the store. The amount of tins of beans the shop must have is 1200. How many tins of beans must be on the shelf in the shop? How many tins of beans must be in the shelf in the warehouse?'

Student answer sheets were sent to the Asda store, after being marked by the maths teachers, with one of the store managers visiting the classroom to provide feedback and talk about career opportunities at Asda. She was able to explain the value of maths in the wide variety of job roles and describe how the company is sponsoring her to Business Studies degree course.

Benefits for the Students

- Classroom discussion revealed that most of the students were at least vague about their career aspirations and were unaware of the range of job roles within a large supermarket.
- 'Maths is one of the core subjects. We've been doing it since primary school ...and I wondered if there was a use for it.'
- [The questions] '... were applied to real life ... like people actually use.'
- 'It comes in handy – in everyday life situations.'

Benefits for the School

- The project supported the Careers Leader's plan to build strategic links with local employers and embed careers within curriculum learning (Gatsby benchmark 4)
- With 80%+ of students at the school on Pupil Premium and with low levels of student and parental engagement and student aspiration, the project helped to present a positive picture of career opportunities and show that classroom learning can be applied beyond school.

Benefits for the Employer

The project provided Asda with an opportunity to demonstrate corporate commitments:

- '... to helping make the local community around our stores a better place to live, work and grow up in.'
- '... when you join us, you'll have the freedom to do what you do best. Give customers great service. Respect everyone. Strive for excellence. And act with integrity.'

What's the point of learning this stuff?

ASDA
Save money. Live better.

Have you got the kind of maths skills needed in different roles in Asda?

Remember

- Some of your work will be sent to managers at the Asda superstore at Burnden Park.
- Community Champion Tracey Joanne Smith will visit this school to provide feedback from Asda.
- It could be YOUR work that is posted for her feedback!

1. Easter is over, but there are still chocolate eggs in stock and the Burnden Park store manager needs to free up precious space on the shelves and in the warehouse for other seasonal products. Each egg was bought by Asda for £3.50 and normally sold by Asda for £5.00. What is the maximum discount Asda can make and still make a profit?

2. 425,000 people live within a 15-minute drive of the Burnden Park site. Many of them rely on Asda's special offers to afford everything they need. One mother has a budget of £25 to spend on her weekly shopping. She needs to buy bread (£0.99), milk (£0.89), sausages (£1.75) and a collection of household items which come to £17.25. She would like to buy a personal treat, what is the maximum cost they can afford for their treat? If she can afford a product that is offered with a 20% discount, how much would it normally have cost?

3. Burnden Park is completing a refit of the store, including shelving for products. There is x amount of space available on the shelves for tins of beans. In the warehouse, there is 2x amount of space available for extra stock. The shop expects 60 tins to be on an incorrect shelf within the store. The amount of tins of beans the shop must have is 1200. How many tins of beans must be on the shelf in the shop? How many tins of beans must be in the shelf in the warehouse?

4. Lorraine, Asda's Loss Prevention Colleague at Burnden Park, explained in the video how she has to manage the 100-page report about everything that has not been sold in the last five weeks. What are your practical ideas for helping her locate items on the shelves or in the warehouse of this huge store and find out why they have not been sold? Are there any maths skills that could help Lorraine?

Lorraine Smith
Loss Prevention Colleague

Monday 9/9
1. £5.00 - £3.50 = £1.50
£1.50 - £0.01 = £1.49
you would make £0.01 profit.
2. £0.99, £0.89, £1.75 + £17.25 = £20.88
£25 - £20.88 = £4.12
maximum cost of treat can be £4.12
£4.12 = 87p / 80p
£ = 17p / 15p Original price would have been £5.15
shop x = 880
warehouse 2x = 760
you should pay someone to go find where all of the items are to make your job easier, they could send you an email to show where the items are so that you could blame them.

Year 9 students were set a worksheet with maths questions based on scenarios at the local Asda superstore. As part of the preparation, they learned about the supermarket's operation and heard from a management trainee, who described the value of maths skills in her day-to-day work.