



Tring School

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October 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 - The Real Game Day

On Thursday 13 October 2011, your child will be taking part in a careers exploration programme called The Real Game. It is an innovative programme in which students take on adult work roles. By completing various classroom and research activities they learn about many aspects of real life that they will face as adults including budgeting and planning for the future. Your son/daughter has been put into a 'community' of 10 students in which they will work for the duration of the day. These communities will each be assigned a Year 12 student who has been trained to help the communities during the exercises.

The aim of the programme is to allow your son/daughter to explore the realities of working life in a safe, supportive environment. It introduces students to the way the world of work is changing and its new characteristics such as increased self-employment, working from home, working in teams and the impact of new technology.

Early in the programme, your child will assume an occupational role. The pairing of child and occupation is, by design, random. It does **not** reflect, except by chance, your child's desires or aptitudes. The randomness has been built into the programme to emphasise certain points: the value of all work, the inequalities that exist in the work world, the importance of adopting a positive attitude and exploring ways to change your life. It also ensures a measure of realism in the resulting class community, as the scope of occupations in the class represents a broad range of earning levels, educational backgrounds, and working styles. In addition, the randomness helps students see the importance of job satisfaction and the factors that contribute to it.

Five assumptions about life as an adult and about the world of work underlie the programme and your child may refer to them when explaining what goes on in the classroom. They are: that change is constant, that learning is ongoing, that it's important to focus on the journey through life and not just the goal, to follow your heart (that is to listen to your dreams and strive for them) and to access your allies when you need help.

The Real Game programme is designed to give students career exploration skills, **not** to direct them to particular occupations. It shows them a range of occupations that may be available to them and gives them a chance to grapple with and understand the nature of the social and economic trends affecting the changing world of work.

Your child does not need to do any preparation for this day as it will take place at school and most equipment will be supplied. All students will be required to wear their normal school uniform and bring pencil cases as usual. It may also be beneficial for them to bring a calculator. If there is anything you would like to discuss about The Real Game programme please contact me through the usual channels.

Yours sincerely

A J Dobberson
Assistant Headteacher



