

skillsfortomorrow



University
of Worcester

About

Skills for Tomorrow is an event that unites expertise from both the University of Worcester and local business to provide an engaging and interactive opportunity for KS3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) pupils from schools in the region to learn about the growing career opportunities in a future that is sustainable, low carbon and has an environmentally sustainable economy. Pupils can explore the challenges and opportunities that arise with contemporary and future matters such as responsible tourism, ethical food production, convincing consumers, and environmental stewardship. Pupils participate in workshops led by expert practitioners and members of the University community that feature challenges centred on real life examples and engage with professionals in the exhibition hall to find out about sustainable practices employed in the business sectors. The event aims to inspire pupils to challenge their perceptions and to build an understanding of the wide range of opportunities that will be available to them in many different areas of work, and future environmental job possibilities that they may not have thought of.



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Robin Walker - MP for Worcester

"The average school pupil is vastly better informed than many when it comes to sustainability and the importance of international development and we want to harness that enthusiasm they have for these things to make sure they have better career chances and life chances."

Elena Lengthorn, teacher and Eco-schools coordinator at Nunnery Wood High School added:

"It's essential that our young people are prepared for the world that awaits them and understand their role and the possibilities for creating a better future."

"This event helps them realise their potential."

Speller Metcalfe's Director of Sustainability Adrian Speller, said:

"This is our second year attending Skills for Tomorrow and another opportunity to show young people that there are a variety of environmental careers out there, perhaps in industries that they may not have considered before."

Overview



The University of Worcester's Skills for Tomorrow event 2016 invited 180 pupils from secondary schools across Herefordshire and Worcestershire take part in a wide range of activities at the University's Riverside building on June 9 and 10. The event, now in its fourth year, was designed to raise pupil's awareness of growing career opportunities that are associated with areas such as responsible tourism, ethical food production and sustainable cities.

Following an inspirational introduction by a prominent key note speaker, the pupils took part in a wide range of activities. This began with a an activity based around job role analysis. Following this pupils attended workshops featuring challenges linked to sustainable business practices. The workshops were led by a numbers of industry professionals and other experts in this area.



A number of global and local businesses were represented in the exhibitors hall. The purpose of the exhibits was to show pupils how many potential jobs there are relating to sustainability and the environment in many different business sectors.

Millie Chambers, 12, a pupil at Nunnery Wood High School in Worcester, said:

"It makes you think about what we can do to change things and be part of the world."

Whilst pupils were busy with their workshops, staff also had an opportunity for learning and enhancing their skills to teach sustainability and were invited to a specially designed teacher event. As a bonus, by completing all the 'Skills for Tomorrow' activities, pupils were able to meet the requirements to achieve a CREST Discovery Sustainability award, through the scheme promoted by the British Science Association.

The format for the day was devised by a group of representatives from the University of Worcester, Worcestershire County Council and Worcester Rotary Club and the educational content of the workshops was developed by members of the STEM team from the Institute of Education at the University.

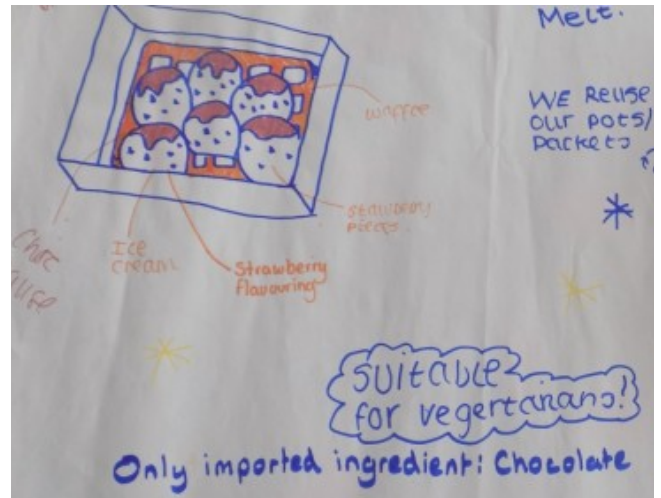


The Workshops

The food workshop introduced pupils to the complex nature of food production from its source to their plate, exploring sustainability dimensions at each stage and considering the varied jobs and skills required. They also had the opportunity to see how many miles food travels to make it to the shop shelves. Pupils were tasked with developing their own ideas for making and selling a healthy food product which has a low environmental impact – and compete with each other for customers for their products in a presentation session.

'This has been a very interesting and fun experience today - I have learnt loads of information about how to make food

production sustainable and how travel is becoming more modern and effective. It's really fun to learn about all of this!' The Chase School - Callum, 14



The tourism workshop was used to help show the pupils that tourism as a whole can have a negative effect on the environment. The activity the students were set was to design a tourist information centre in a village, and looked at how they can use the environment around them while having a positive effect on the community and local wildlife. This is what they said about the activity: *"I have learnt about what insulation is, and how it is sustainable. I also learnt how we can*

incorporate natural wildlife and farming into tourism that will benefit everyone."

"I have learnt how to become sustainable when it comes to building construction, and I learnt how to find alternatives that are better for the environment."

Shahin Jogi - First year university sustainability mentor

"I was working on the sustainable food workshop for both days. For the majority of the schools, the children had a basic understanding of the fact that a lot of energy is used to make food products such as a kinder egg. They understood that most of the time, we eat fruit that is out of season in this country and therefore has been shipped over

from another country. I think the design task allowed the students to expand their creative side and really engage with the process of being sustainable when making a food product. It culminated all the key points from the presentation and required them to think about all of those aspects while trying to design a healthy, environmentally friendly, affordable frozen dessert (including the packaging). The kids really seemed to enjoy themselves; there were some very inventive ideas and great posters that came from the exercise and it just showed that in a different environment other than their classroom, lessons can still be learnt and fun can still be had".



Transport Workshop

The workshop began with a fun exploration and comparison of two buses, one built in 1956 and the other modern. This was followed by discussions about transport and sustainability, considering congestion, pollution, health issues and affordable transport. Students were then challenged to think about what changes could be made to encourage the public to make greater use of current transport systems.

Working in teams to create innovative solutions, pupils were asked to design a bus for the future which would increase the number of people using public transport instead of cars. The teams came up with some fantastic future buses, this is what they had to say about the workshop:

"Everything that I have seen today has helped me understand how to help the environment and how I can help in the future. I enjoyed the public transport workshop the most because I thought I had quite a good idea club class transport". Oscar The Chase School



"I like all the creative activities that we have done today such as designing a bus for the future. it has been great fun" Silas, The Chase School

"I have enjoyed today as it has helped me to understand how to think for the future generation. I enjoyed Buses with Carl the most, as it was creative and Carl was hilarious. I would like to come back and study more about saving energy and to hear Carl's laugh again!" Finn Ellinson, Christopher Whitehead Language College

The Exhibitor Hall

The purpose of the exhibitor hall was to show pupils the exciting range of sustainability related jobs currently available, and provide a sense of the number of business sectors integrating sustainability into the work place. Representatives from both local and global businesses were present and students were invited to browse the exhibits

in small groups and question the business representatives about their work. This offered great opportunities for students to engage with business professionals and inspiration for potential future careers. Many of the exhibits offered activities and/or demonstrations, experiences included sampling chocolate crickets from an innovative new company breeding crickets for human consumption to a



display of water flow rate adapter for improving the water efficiency of shower heads!

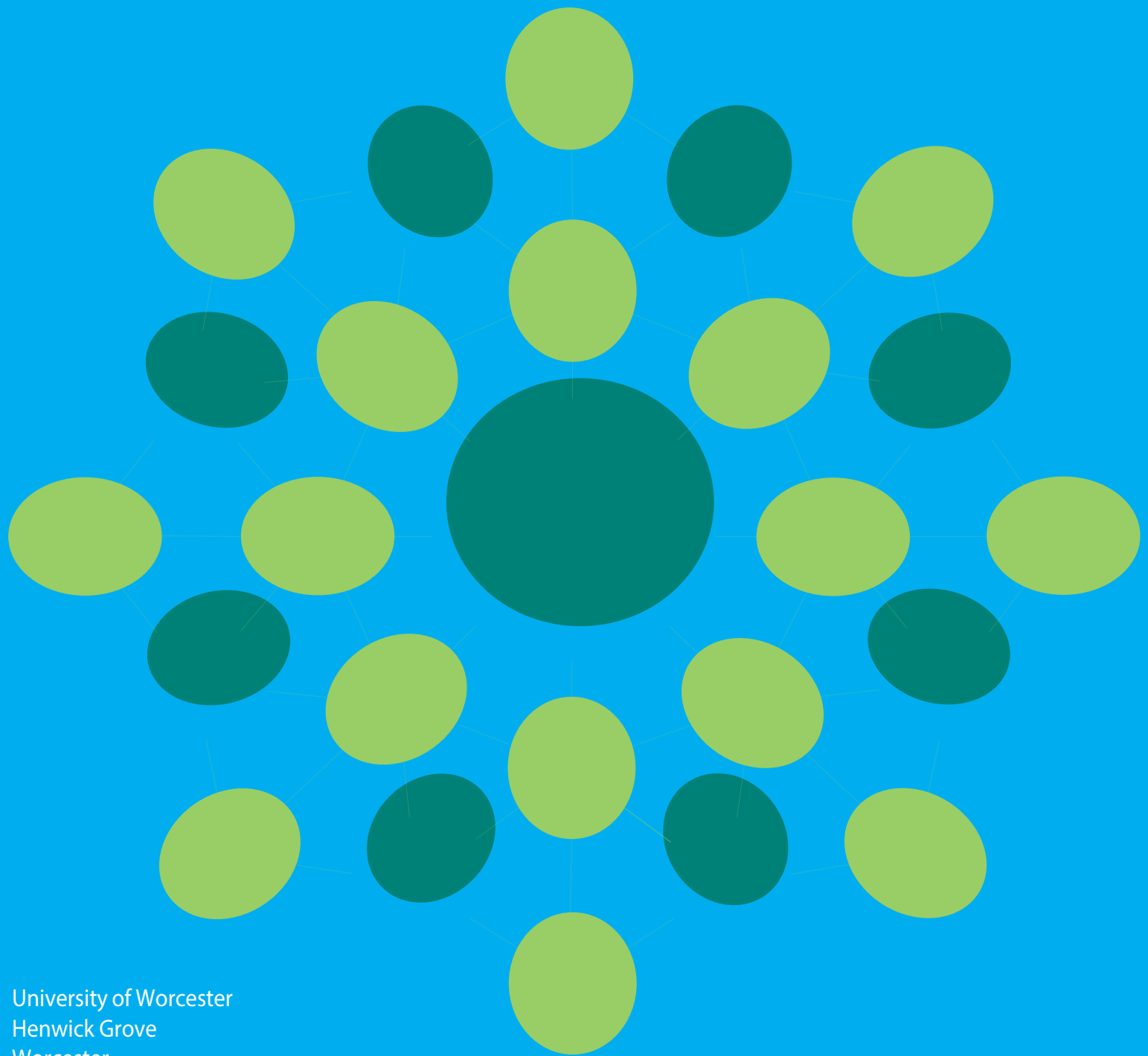


The University of Worcester also featured in the exhibitor hall with workshops on digital literacy, robotics, designing a business card for your future careers and Java programming.

The exhibitor hall business representatives shared with pupils their responses to sustainability and the job roles in their organisations where sustainability skills are required.

The organisations represented at Skills for Tomorrow were:





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