



Andrew Murray from Blackshaw Lane on the Oldham College stand.

The world of work

ASK a nine or ten year old what job they would like to do when they are older and they might say a doctor, teacher, nurse, lawyer or footballer.

But Oldham's primary schools careers fair aimed to get them thinking about the endless variety of work options – and the skills and qualification needed for them – in a fun, hands-on way.

Around 900 year-five pupils from 24 Oldham primary schools attended the event at Mahdlo youth centre, where they met representatives from more than 40 businesses, colleges and apprenticeship companies.

A bit like “speed dating”, they had seven minutes at each stall to find out as much as possible about a career or college course, before a bell signalled it was time to move on.



To make each stop as memorable as possible, they took part in simple science experiments, golf putting, hairdressing, changing nappies, cleaning microchips, photography and even... curry tasting!

“It's incredibly important that pupils have the opportunity to think about about their future and career aspirations – particularly before they move to high school and face important decisions about what subjects to pursue,” explained Delph Primary head teacher, Alison Leigh.

She is joint leader of the business and community group in the Oldham Schools Alliance, which organised the event with enterprise company Mploy Solutions. Oldham Enterprise Trust, which supports businesses, helped with funding.

Alison added: “It's helping pupils to find out about all different opportunities open to them: the different jobs, the companies they can work for and whether they might want to go to university or college. It also helps them to think about what they *don't* want to do!

“But it's not just about the jobs but also about the skills they will need.

“They come back and say they didn't know they needed English and maths to be a hairdresser – or even that they didn't know they have to be punctual!”



Ava Hewitt from St. Anne's CE, Lydgate tries hairdressing, while (left), Faakir Amin, Adam Hussain and Muhamad Rehman from Alexandra Park school check out the photography display