



Case study

Think Food and Farming

Mount Carmel High School





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Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority

Think Food and Farming Case Study

Food for Success- Mount Carmel Catholic High School, Lancashire



Summary

Aim To raise awareness of where food comes from, increase attainment and improve cross-curricular working.

Action Studying food from farm to table through a farm visit, guest speakers and a special cross-curriculum day at school.

Impact Greatly increased awareness of where food comes from, and improved pupil behaviour.



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Background information

Ms Helen Clarke – Food Technology and Health and Social Care Teacher, Tel: 01254 233458, Helen.clarke2@homecall.co.uk

Mount Carmel Catholic High School, Wordsworth Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 0LU

The school has 800 pupils, aged 11 to 16, 54 teaching and 26 support staff. The school is in a poor area and students have little understanding of farming and the food it produces

The Project

Objectives

- To engage students with the world around them, and to help them realise the impact that they can have on the environment. In particular, for pupils to know where major food products originate from, and to understand the food chain from gate to plate to aid their learning within Food Technology and other aspects of the curriculum, and within their family lives now and in the future.
- To increase levels of attainment in the subjects involved and therefore enhance academic standards. The project to run in curriculum time, for Year 8 and Year 10, with expected learning outcomes and targets set.
- To form a cross-curricular group to work on a thematic approach to fit in with changes to the National Curriculum. To write schemes of work and POS reflecting the thematic approach.
- To make links across curriculum areas to incorporate Food Technology, Geography, History, Science and General Studies, looking at technological advances in the farming industry and their impact upon the environment, the economy and food, with a particular emphasis on healthy eating.
- To make use of the local food and farming industry and enable students to experience a more hands-on approach to food and farming.
- To use the collaboration with FACE to act as an impetus for this project.

How learning was organised

- Optional trip in February 08 to local agricultural college to see the lambing and dairy unit with 40 year 8 pupils to show where meat and dairy products originate from – commercial aspect.
- A speaker day in May 08 within school with seven guest speakers for all year 8 (160 pupils). Speakers including:
 - Seaquest – Food from the sea (locally)



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- Agricultural College – Food miles
- Soil Analysis
- Local Abattoir – Dunbia – How a large abattoir works
- Butcher and sausage/burger making
- Cronkshaw Farm – Egg grading/smallholder
- Warburtons Bakery
- A full curriculum day in May 08 spent with class teachers from all areas of the curriculum. All classes to participate in relevant special lessons. All pupils Years 7 to 10 inclusive involved.
- The food department entered pupils for 'Food for Success' competition relevant to Year of Food and Farming.

Achievements

- We conducted questionnaires soon after the two main days and had several question-and-answer sessions within Food Technology, Geography and Science lessons. The pupils are much more aware of where food originates from and that meat is produced from animals. They now understand several food production flows such as how bread is made.
- There were no behaviour problems on the day and concentration was noticeably higher. Students showed great interest in the subjects being spoken about and asked numerous questions.
- Pupils not involved in the day were really disappointed – only 40 places were available on the farm trip (due to health and safety). Pupils have requested another similar trip.

Next Steps

- The school plans to participate in an annual trip to the local agricultural college for lambing.
- The school is planning to create an allotment.
- There are plans to have other speakers in school.
- More cross-curriculum days are planned, although on different subjects.

Additional Material

A BBC Look North video clip is available as the school was on this show. This clip is also on the schools VLE. Local press clippings, several displays within school, numerous photographs, school newsletter.



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Teaching Materials

Handouts used in Food for success project and several resources used by teachers on the cross-curriculum day.

