

Could your business help plant the next seed?

Confidence First, Futures Follow.

Planting the Seeds is a CHEXS GROWTH initiative connecting Year 10 students with relatable local business role models. It gives young people a chance to build confidence, practise conversation and explore different routes to success through honest, practical contact with people from their own community.

ONE MORNING. ONE HONEST STORY. ONE CHANCE TO OPEN UP WHAT FEELS POSSIBLE.

Why local businesses?

Young people already receive careers information at school, but information alone does not always remove the barriers that can stop them engaging with it. Planting the Seeds works on the foundations first: confidence, communication, self-belief, resilience and the ability to speak with unfamiliar adults.

Local professionals make this real. Students meet people who work in their community, hear about the choices and challenges behind their roles and can ask questions in a setting that feels more like a conversation than a presentation.

What we ask from you

Give one morning

The commitment is intentionally manageable. Join a future school session and spend time talking directly with Year 10 students.

Share the real story

Talk honestly about your route into work, what helped you, what challenged you and what you have learned along the way.

Make it a conversation

You do not need a polished corporate presentation. Practical activities, questions and small-group discussion are more useful.

Keep young people at the centre

This is not a recruitment exercise. The purpose is to help students recognise their strengths and see more than one route to success.

The pilot at a glance

1 July 2026

Pilot delivered at Goffs Churchgate Academy

~120

Year 10 students took part

8/8

Survey respondents reported increased confidence

The follow-up survey was completed by eight students, so these figures are encouraging early evidence rather than a measure of the whole year group.

What a session can look like

1

Introduce yourself - Who are you, what do you do now and what does your working life actually look like?

2

Share your route - Include the changes, setbacks and unexpected turns - students told us this honesty mattered.

3

Make it practical - Explore themes such as trust, first impressions, listening, teamwork, reliability, resilience and confidence.

4

Get students talking - Give them space to ask questions, practise introductions and explain the qualities they could bring to an opportunity.

5

Leave a next step - Help students understand that there are many pathways - employment, apprenticeships, training, skilled trades, entrepreneurship and more.

You do not need to...

Sell your company

This is about the person behind the job, not a corporate pitch.

Have a perfect career story

A route with changes or setbacks can be more relatable than a straight line.

Recruit on the day

The aim is early preparation and confidence, not filling vacancies.

Have all the answers

CHEXS and school staff are there to support the session and help the conversation flow.

Why take part?

Planting the Seeds gives businesses a practical way to turn local social value into a meaningful relationship with young people, a school and the wider community. It also gives your team a better understanding of the hopes, concerns and questions young people have as they begin thinking about life beyond school.

"Adam, because he showed me I can do it."

Year 10 student

Interested in a future session?

Give one morning of your time, share what you have learned and help a young person see what might be possible.

Register your interest: admin@chexs.co.uk