

Vision My Future (Summer 2011).

At Winstanley we are very proud of our work in raising students' aspirations and helping students to reach their targets and goals in life. We believe that through instilling a mindset of supporting others, hard work, independent thought, perseverance and excellence we are focused on preparing our students for the challenges of the 21st century. We are delighted that GE in Groby share this vision and support the college in the provision of high class initiatives to develop our students.

The 'Vision My Future' programme was delivered by GE in the summer term of 2011 to 16 boys we had identified as underachieving in the subjects of English, Maths and Science. The intervention formed an integral part of a wider initiative called the 'Breakthrough Project' in which underachieving boys are helped to develop a more positive approach to their lives through a programme of assertive mentoring and leadership training. Key tenets of this programme involve fostering improved attainment by scrutinising barriers to achievement, target setting and challenges.

In the last academic year GE supported this programme through the provision of a workshop on Crisis Management in Business. Students were provided with business scenarios and worked in teams to seek solutions to short and long term issues. We were delighted this year when GE offered to extend their input through the provision of the 'Vision My Future' programme. Steve Chalmers and his team delivered 3 x 100 minute sessions at the college to the boys offering practical and theoretical steps to mapping their way to get ahead in life. Our boys were all very engaged by the programme and expressed enthusiasm for the work they completed. I have also spoken to parents of those involved and they have been equally impressed with the work and approach taken by GE.

During the next academic year we will be setting up a similar Breakthrough initiative to engage underachieving girls at the college and GE have expressed their desire to assist us in extending our intervention work.

Our business link with GE is invaluable in helping us to provide core and extension activities to our students, many of whom come from deprived backgrounds and need additional assistance and encouragement to participate and succeed in college. We are looking forward to developing our existing programmes with GE and to launching new initiatives such as the Vision My Future programme with our girls.

Richard Bastock.

Head of Year 9 / Careers Co-ordinator.

Winstanley Community College