



November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Headteachers of schools in the Todmorden cluster, we are ambitious for all the children in our care. We want everyone to reach their potential. At the beginning of this academic year, we discussed raising the aspirations of the children across Todmorden. Having researched deeper into the idea, we have come up with the following information:

Research shows that a child's career aspirations are unlikely to change between the ages of 7 and 17. More than a third of children base these early aspirations solely on people they know and jobs they see people doing. For many reasons, children from disadvantaged backgrounds or children who live in small towns are likely to have fewer opportunities to meet people in a range of jobs. All of this means that some children's horizons can be narrowed at a very early age.

The Todmorden cluster are aiming to

- Broaden horizons, rather than narrowing options
- Link learning to different careers
- Challenge stereotypes
- Introduce the children to real people with varied careers

We want to show our children that peoples jobs are broad and we also want to explore with them as many careers as we can. The more options children are aware of, the better decisions they can make for themselves. Raising aspirations is about helping children and young people to find options that suit them as individuals, ensuring they go on to have happy and fulfilling working lives.

This letter is the beginning of a process that may take some time, however we believe it will be an exciting project. So, we are starting with a plea to our parents. Is there anyone out there who would like to come and talk to a class/school/ individuals about their work, job or career?

Yours sincerely,

The Todmorden Headteachers

---

I would like to share my experiences of my working life with children in Todmorden

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to your child's school.