



Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to our Special Federation write-up celebrating 'FUTURE ME DAY'.



Just before half-term, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February, we were delighted to welcome children from across our Federation to celebrate 'Future Me Day'. It was an inspiring occasion, giving pupils the chance to explore future aspirations, learn about the skills and knowledge needed for different careers, and build friendships across our school communities.



The day opened with a shared assembly in the main hall, where we were thrilled to welcome Onika Venus. Originally from Jamaica, Onika now lives in the Forest of Dean and spoke to the children about her journey as a musician.

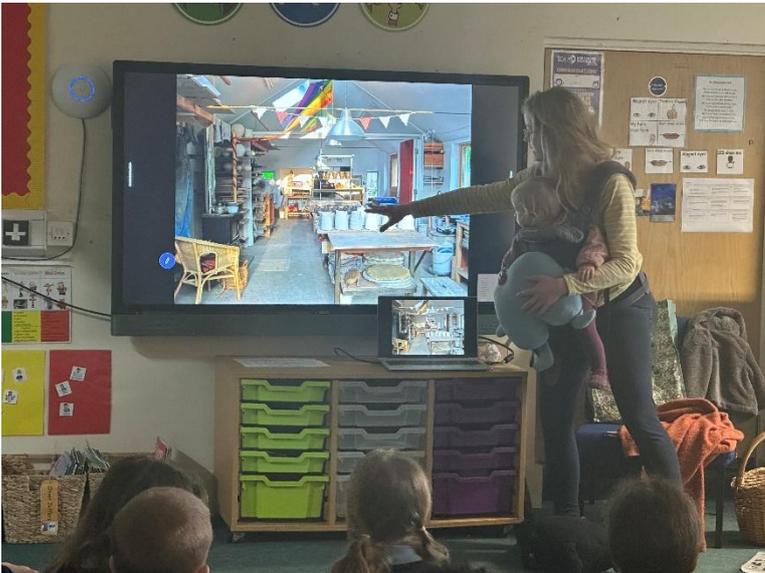
We were especially moved by a song she performed about believing in yourself and your dreams, a perfect reflection of our Future Me Day message that children can achieve anything they set their hearts on.

Blending reggae, pop and soulful melodies, Onika's music captured a real sense of optimism and confidence. Alongside songs by Bob Marley, which the whole school loved joining in with, her performance set a positive and inspiring tone for the day and showed how passion, creativity and perseverance can shape a future career.



After this shared start, children were mixed into year groups across both schools, giving them the opportunity to work with and make new friends from the wider federation. Throughout the day, each group visited a range of speakers, all representing very different jobs and career pathways.

### Fleen Doran - Self-Employed Potter



Fleen shared her career journey through a talk and presentation, showing the children where she has worked and how she developed her craft. Children then had the opportunity to experience pottery for themselves by making a clay pot, gaining a real hands-on insight into creative skills and being self employed.



*"I really liked the way the potter explained being inspired from childhood mud pies" - Emyr*

### Emily Grant - Music Therapist

Emily demonstrated how music can be used to support wellbeing. With the help of the children, in each new session she composed a song together and showcased a range of instruments and sounds used to calm, energise or change mood.

The session highlighted listening skills, teamwork and creativity.



*"I found this session so calming" - Maisie*



*"The Music Therapist made me feel happy throughout the song" - Madison*

*"I loved how Emily made her songs on the spot using our ideas, it was really funny" - Ted*

**Lizzie Youens - Veterinarian**

Children learned about the role of a vet, including caring for animals and developing practical medical skills in Lizzie's session. They practised suturing, examined X-rays, dressed up as vets and learned how to bandage animals, which was a particular highlight for many.



*"I love animals and seeing the Vet demonstrated how to bandage and sew, this is something I'd like to learn more about" Eadie*

**Hannah Beasley - Basketry Tutor**

Hannah demonstrated the traditional craft of basketry. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about natural materials and the history behind the skill. The children were then able to have a go themselves by making a willow wand, discovering the patience and dexterity needed for this skill.

*"The best bit for me was making the willow stars because I found it challenging" - Lettie*



*"We got to make the wand, it wasn't easy but we could then keep it - it was great fun" Nathan*



**Richard Hingston - Geologist / Railway Engineer**

Richard shared photographs from places he has worked (including caves!) and talked about how geology links to engineering. Children dressed up in hi-vis, goggles and helmets, and were fascinated by the various rocks Richard brought. They loved being able to hold and examine them while learning about problem-solving and scientific knowledge.



*"We have been learning about rocks in Science and Geography, I now see why we did that and the job we can do linked to this" Ophelia*

*"I loved listening to the Geologist because I got to see the fossils / crystals which I've never seen before" Jesse*

**Brent and Paul Screen - Heating Engineers**



Brent and Paul spoke about working in the trades, sharing "tricks of the trade" and explaining how plumbing skills are used every day. Children enjoyed handling tools and bending pipes while learning about practical skills and teamwork. They particularly enjoyed hearing the banter between father and son.

*"I enjoyed bending the pipes and hearing how Brent got soaked once due to his dad 'forgetting' to turn it off... Paddy*

*"AI can't replace a plumber, I think this is a safe job to have in the future" - Cora*



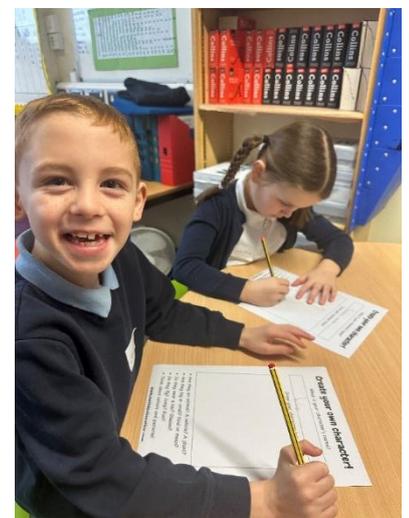
### Matt Davies - Author

Matt talked about what it takes to become an author, the skills needed for writing, and the journey from ideas to published books. He shared some of his published work, inspiring children to think creatively and confidently about storytelling. Books he has written include 'Inspector Earwig and The Garden Thief' and 'Beyond The Hive'.



*"I enjoyed the Author the most as it was inspiring and he helped us come up with our own characters."*

Georgina



*"I liked making new friends. Me and Skyla (from Parkend) played together at lunchtime and sat together in the sessions."* Tabitha

*I loved all of it because it was fun and inspiring. I still don't know what I want to be but I have lots of options!"* Charlie.



Future Me Day was designed to help children understand that there are many different pathways into work, each requiring a mix of skills, knowledge, creativity and determination. Just as importantly, it was a wonderful opportunity for children from both Parkend and Yorkley Schools to learn together, collaborate and build new friendships across our federation.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our visitors for giving their time and inspiring our children, and we are proud of how confidently and enthusiastically the children engaged throughout the day. Special mention to Miss Screen and Miss Sime for organising the event.

Kind regards,

*K. Burke*

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

**IMPORTANT DATES:** - New dates in Red

DATE	EVENTS
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Look who's talking KS1 winner - at St Whites School
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Secondary School Allocation Day
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Look who's talking lower KS2 winner - at St Whites School
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Look who's talking upper KS2 winner - at St Whites School
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Panathlon Event at Hartpury College
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day for Yorkley - letter to follow
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day - non uniform with donation.
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Day - (Infants) share a book with a special person
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4's In the Net - Internet safety session
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening 3.30 - 5.30
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening 3.30 - 5.30
16 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Big Walk and Wheel fortnight
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term 4 - normal finish time
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Term 5 - Children in
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> April	September Reception Allocation Day
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight check
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May - Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs week
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Oberon trip to Caerleon
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	End of Term 5
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Start of Term 6 - Children in
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Scholastic Book Fair arriving
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> - Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 & 6 London Residential - Federation
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Father's Day - (Infants) share a book with a special person
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term 6