

Jennifer Moss – She's RHA Member

Careers in Logistics presentation - Castleford Academy

15/01/2018



After sending out a few speculative emails in October I was invited to speak at Castleford Academy to a group of year 10's thinking about apprenticeship rather than higher education.

I remember being 15/16 and having absolutely no idea what I wanted to do, I actually remember being 20 and having no idea what I wanted to do! I often wonder if someone had come to my school and 'sold' logistics as a career choice; would I have considered it earlier? Could I have been further along in my career? Honestly, the answer is probably no. At 15/16 I wasn't even thinking about any career and as much as I love it now (and I really do) I would probably have laughed at anyone trying to pitch 'Logistics', I didn't even know what it was.

So that was the starting point of my presentation; What IS logistics. Its hard to make logistics look sexy but it helped to remind myself I could be stood there talking about chocolate and kittens and would be met with the same blank indifference. They are 16, at school and with a group of their peers, It was clear I wasn't going to get a Robin Williams style 'Oh captain my captain moment'.

All of that was running through my mind repeatedly as I tried to engage and make what is very simply moving boxes around look interesting and exciting.

My Colleague from the Learning and Development team then explained how the apprenticeship scheme worked within XPO, the selection process and the pay rates. He was much better than me at trying to engage with them. He actually got a response from the boy who had chosen to sit at the front and we had an eye-contact-less discussion around how his choice of career of engineering' could be supported within XPO.

Once I had finished my death by Powerpoint speech of course there was no applause. I had asked them to write down any questions rather than ask anyone to speak but the prospect of going back to lessons early from their teacher soon raised some enthusiastic voices.

Overall, I really enjoyed it and being that I have a teenager at home I know how even if you have got something through to them...it's often doesn't show in any human reaction. Who knows, we might just have inspired the next Richard Burnett