

5T Edward Betham CofE School



At a conference in [redacted] was with a photo and what I did.

When I agreed to talk to a year 5 group at Edward Betham, I was given a time limit (20 minutes) and a brief. I was to talk about my job and to mention the hopes and aspirations that had led to it. Whilst talking to a group for 20 minutes was no problem, talking about the goals and aspirations that had brought me to where I am, was. How truthful should I be? Should I admit that I fell into a job that I love through a series of chance events? I decided that the route to take was complete honesty but to gloss over goals and aspirations. I nervously prepared a brief powerpoint presentation covering who I

The class listened in silence until I got to the fourth slide which looked at some of the organisations that my group of Occupational Psychologists had worked for. A hand went up. "If it's not to rude a question....." I waited anxiously for the question to come. He continued with "...how much do you earn?". In my pledge of honesty I could do nothing but tell him. A little later I was asked whether I gave any money to charity.



From then on the questions came thick and fast. I discovered later that most of the questions had been carefully prepared and written out neatly in their notebooks before



hand. I was asked whether I had visited a long list of countries including Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean and Australia – mostly places to which at least one of the class was travelling to over the Easter break.

I was also asked if I enjoyed my work and whether they would need to hard at GCSEs and A levels to get a job like mine. At the very beginning of the talk at least one person apologised for not knowing what an Occupational Psychologist was – I told them not to worry as most grown ups didn't know either! Those of you who are interested can look on the British Psychological Society's website (www.bps.org) and no it's got nothing to do with Occupational Therapy, Psychiatry, or reading people's minds.

In between the career focussed questions came a great deal of very general ones such as what was my favourite colour (blue), my favourite football team (Liverpool FC) and why if I came from Liverpool I didn't 'talk weird'.

I ran well over my allotted twenty minutes and at the end the whole class thanked me for coming. I would like to thank 5T, Mrs Milcoy and Ms Trotter, and Helen Miller for organising the visit.



Christeen George