

ASPIRE CAREERS FORTNIGHT | January 2026

Leavening pupils urged to 'Dream Big' during inspiring Aspire Careers Fortnight

Pupils at **Leavening Community Primary School** have been stepping into the future during an exciting and ambitious **Aspire Careers Fortnight**, designed to open young minds to the huge range of careers waiting for them.

Over two action-packed weeks, children from Nursery to Year 6 took part in talks, workshops and hands-on experiences with visitors from a wide variety of professions – all linked to the school's year-round **"Dream Big" careers curriculum**.

The fortnight saw children exploring careers as **bakers and chefs**, learning about **farming and food production**, meeting **radio and media presenters from York Mix**, working with **published authors** from the local community, cracking **Morse code and communications**, discovering **RAF careers**, and even taking part in a **robot dog workshop** exploring the future of artificial intelligence and technology.

There was also a strong creative focus, with pupils learning from **artists, sculptors and painters**, as well as hearing from professionals involved in the exciting world of **horse racing and training**.

Headteacher Mrs Sian Mitchell said:

"Careers education at Leavening isn't something we do for one week – it runs through everything we do. Aspire Fortnight is our opportunity to showcase that commitment and to give children experiences that help them see what is possible. Whether they dream of becoming a chef, an engineer, an artist or a pilot, we want them to believe those dreams belong to them."

Children were able to ask questions, try out real-world skills and hear first-hand about the journeys people take into different careers. The emphasis throughout the fortnight was on helping pupils understand that **success can take many forms**, and that their background, location or starting point should never limit their ambitions.

The visit from **York Mix** gave pupils a behind-the-scenes look at radio and digital media, while the **robot dog workshop** sparked huge excitement as children explored how artificial intelligence may shape the jobs of the future. The **RAF** session helped pupils understand pathways into aviation, engineering and communications, while local authors showed how stories can become books – and careers.

For a small rural school, Aspire Fortnight also demonstrated the power of **community partnerships**, with local professionals giving their time to inspire the next generation.

Mrs Mitchell added:

"Our motto is 'Together We Can', and this fortnight showed that perfectly. When schools, families and the local community work together, we can give children experiences that truly change how they see themselves and their futures."

With smiling faces, new interests and big ambitions sparked across the school, Aspire Careers Fortnight has once again shown that at Leavening, children are encouraged not just to dream – but to **dream big**.



Some quotes from our pupils:

"Laura from YorkMix came in and told us all about how she started working in radio. She told us about everything that happens behind the scenes. I really enjoyed her visit and the way she made it so interactive and interesting."

"The visit to the racing yard was great. We were very intrigued by what we were doing because it was so different from anything we had done before. It was really fun to sit on the mechanical horse. We learned lots of things including horse body parts and where their muscles become most tense."

"Louise came into the Conkers and Oak Trees classes to talk about her baking business. We asked lots of questions, and many of us now want to work in baking. Her passion is also her hobby, which has inspired many of the children to want to do something similar when we are older."

