

# Step-by-step guide to running an Inspiring the Future event at your school



**inspiring**  
the  
**future**  
Aotearoa

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# Why Inspiring the Future?

We know from international research that young people often have narrow ideas about their future. Inspiring the Future has been created to broaden their horizons and confront stereotypes that can limit their potential.

Volunteer role models from your community who want to be part of Inspiring the Future can be found at [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](https://inspiringthefuture.org.nz). You can read their profiles and invite them to an event.

When you schedule your event at [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](https://inspiringthefuture.org.nz) you'll receive everything you need to run it. The resource pack will include fun classroom activities to do before and after the event that you can incorporate into your art, literacy or social studies programmes.

The chosen role models will also have a step-by-step guide about the event.

# How Inspiring the Future works

1. Sign up at [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](https://inspiringthefuture.org.nz).
2. Create an event online and receive a resource pack.
3. Find role models online and invite them to your event.
4. Prepare for the event.
5. Run the event.
  - 5a. 20 questions. Students ask role models questions to try and guess what job they do.
  - 5b. The reveal. Role models leave the room and then come back wearing their work clothes or holding a prop that represents what they do. They reveal their stories – what jobs they do, the pathway they took to get there and any challenges they faced.
  - 5c. Discussion groups. Students sit with role models to ask questions and learn more about their stories and jobs.

There is a demonstration of an Inspiring the Future event at [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](https://inspiringthefuture.org.nz).

# How much time do I need to commit?

- Allow up to 3 hours for the event.
- Allow time to prepare.

## How to use this guide

- Use the 'What to do before your event' section and the checklist to plan and prepare.
- Use the 'What to do on the day of the event' section to help you structure and time the event and keep things to time (take the guide with you to the event).

## What to do before the event

### Planning

Talk with your team to decide:

- when to run the event
- whether to provide lunch (manaakitanga)
- how many students to invite

Inspiring the Future works well with about 60 students and four to eight role models. Such an event should take about 2 hours, with 1 hour for 20 questions plus 1 hour for discussion groups. Changing the number of people involved will alter this timing.

- which role models to invite

The online role model profiles will tell you their job, how they got there and their challenges.

- whether you want to align the event to particular curriculum goals or school values
- whether to invite parents, whānau and ‘āiga to the event.

## Decide roles and responsibilities

Decide who will:

- set up the space for the event
- look after the role models (meet them, show them around and brief them, thank them and show them out afterwards)
- organise getting the students to the event
- host the event and facilitate questions
- supervise small-group discussions.

## Contact the role models

Let the role models know:

- when they should arrive and expect to leave
- whether you’ll provide lunch or not
- if your school will greet them with a haka, pōwhiri, whakatau or other welcome, and if they have to respond what that will mean for them
- anything else about your school’s culture or values that may be relevant.

You could also cover:

- whether they're willing to be photographed and appear on social media
- guidelines about them taking photos of students and sharing them on social media.

While you're getting ready to host an Inspiring the Future event, role models are preparing to take part. They've received their own step-by-step guide that tells them what to do before and during an event, as well as supporting materials to help them inspire the students and make a positive difference on the day.

## Run pre-event activities in the classroom

Activities in the resource pack can be used in your classroom to prepare students for the event.

### Checklist

Use this checklist for your planning.

Have you:

- talked with your team to plan the details of your event
- determined roles and responsibilities on the day
- created your event on [inspiringthefuture.org.nz](http://inspiringthefuture.org.nz)
- invited role models
- contacted the role models who've accepted your invitation
- run pre-event activities in the classroom.



# What to do on the day of your event

## Set up

Have you arranged:

- numbered chairs for each role model for the 20 questions activity
- a whiteboard
- plenty of pens or pencils for the students
- a separate area for role models to store props and change their clothes
- somewhere for students and role models to sit for the small-group discussions
- somewhere for role models to get refreshments.

Take these resources with you to the event:

- a copy of this guide
- 20 questions templates
- discussion group prompt cards
- 1-8 number cards.



## Welcome role models

Introduce the role models to each other and to staff. Check they have their work clothes and props and talk about what they're planning to say in the reveal.

Show them:

- the school layout, including the hall and toilets
- safety procedures during emergencies
- where to get refreshments
- where to leave props and work clothes
- where to get changed into work clothes.

Escort them to the welcome area and show them where their seats are for the event.

## Run the event

### Welcome everyone and outline the event (10 minutes)

1. Welcome the role models and students to Inspiring the Future. (5 minutes)
2. Outline what will happen at the event. (5 minutes)

### 20 questions activity (30-40 minutes)

Role models wearing casual clothes sit in a row in front of the students. Students try to guess what jobs the role models do by asking up to 20 questions.

1. Invite the students to ask questions such as:

- Do you use maths at work?
- Do you wear a uniform?

Ask each role model each question. Students record “yes” or “no” answers in the template provided in the resource pack.

2. Ask the role models to leave the room and change into their work clothes or collect their props.

3. While the role models are out of the room, ask the students to guess what each person’s job is. Write their answers on the whiteboard. If you get different guesses, ask them to vote on the best one.

### **The reveal (20-30 minutes)**

1. Check the role models are wearing their work clothes or have their props. Invite the role models back into the room one by one.

2. Tell them what the students’ job guesses were.

3. Ask the role models to:

- introduce themselves and reveal their job
- talk for about 3 minutes about their job, the pathway they took to get there and any challenges they faced.

## **Discussion groups (allow 1 hour)**

This activity gives the students a chance to interact with the role models in small groups, and should be led by them.

1. Ask the role models to collect their numbers and props, and direct them to their place.
2. Separate the students into as many groups as you have role models.
3. Each group then visits each role model in turn (allow 5-10 minutes per role model).
4. Each group asks the role model questions and has a discussion.

You can adjust the timing according to how many role models and students are involved.

Use the discussion prompts provided to keep the discussion going.

Make sure there is at least one teacher supervising the discussion groups at all times.

## **Close the event**

Gather everyone back together. Thank the role models for coming along and sharing their stories and help them to leave.

## **Run post-event activities in the classroom**

Activities in the resource pack can be used in your classroom to reflect on and reinforce what the students have learned from the event.



**Tertiary Education  
Commission**

Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua