

## Being a Sector Role Model



### What is the Future Frontiers Programme and where does the Sector Role Model fit in?

Future Frontiers deliver a transformative two-year programme of coaching, advice and guidance to equip disadvantaged young people to realise their potential at school and take positive steps into education or training at age 16. We do this through matching pupils with volunteers from our partner businesses to explore careers over four coaching sessions.

In the fourth session, our coaches organise a conversation between their pupil and a professional (Sector Role Model) working in the area their pupil is interested in. This conversation will help the pupil understand more about that career and get practice speaking to a professional.

### The commitment

Your commitment as a Sector Role Model (SRM) is a max 20 minute phone call, video call or meeting with the student and their Future Frontiers coach. The coach will confirm logistics and timings with you. Conversations usually take place over the course of one week six times a year, at the end of each scholastic half-term at around 12pm or 1pm. Some example questions are below:

- How did you decide that this job was right for you?
- What are the best things about your job?
- What are the most challenging things about your job?
- What pathway did you take to reach your job?
- What did you study at school?
- Did you go to university and was that important for getting this job?
- What does a typical workday look like?
- What hurdles did you face in reaching this job and how did you overcome them?

The student might ask you what you get paid, if you are not comfortable answering this directly, we recommend explaining a salary range from starting to experienced.

### Your Details and Safeguarding

- There **must always** be another adult alongside the pupil on the call with you. This should be the coach, but it could also be a teacher or someone from Future Frontiers
- Contact details must not be exchanged with the student under any circumstances - this includes your contact details being given to the student or being displayed on the video call. If you would like to send your student any further resources or information, please tell the coach who'll ask Future Frontiers to inform the student
- Remember you are speaking to a 14/15 year old so please keep the conversation within the remit of education and careers.
- Please read our Safeguarding policy [here](#), which includes a code of conduct, before working with a pupil
- **Your name and email will be shared with Future Frontiers** for safeguarding and communication purposes. Future Frontiers will contact you one time after the programme about [signing up](#) to our Sector Role Model database (a database of professionals willing to speak to students about their careers). Future Frontiers will then delete your data no more than 6 weeks after the conversation with the student.

### Top tips for a great SRM call

1. Remember: you are the expert, so don't hesitate to go through the very basics
2. Be honest: aim to explain the realities of the job and to offer constructive advice
3. Be professional but casual: it'll likely be the student's first conversation of this kind ever