

Michael/Michaela

Overview: This activity explores how unconscious bias might affect preconceptions about a young person's future/learning pathway.

Aim

- To explore the idea that unconscious bias might affect preconceptions about what job area a young person might be interested in.

Links to the Curriculum

HWB

3-09a, 4-09a
3-10a, 4-10a
3-11a, 4-11a
3-19a, 4-19a

Preparation

- Copies of worksheets
- Young people in pairs or small groups

Activity

- Give half the groups the 'Michael' worksheet and the other half the 'Michaela' worksheet.
- Groups should not know that there are two separate worksheets.
- The worksheets are exactly the same, but with a different name attached to them: Michael / Michaela Marr is 16 years old and has just left school. He / she has a number of characteristics which are outlined on the worksheet.
- Groups must decide the following about Michael / Michaela:
 - What he / she is likely to be doing two years after leaving school.
 - What he / she is likely to be doing when 30 years old. This could include job, marital status, family, etc.

Discussion

- Discussion might reveal different expectations in terms of both education and career for a girl / boy even though they have the same characteristics.
- How could this be used to get young people to challenge their own thinking?
- You could use MyWOW to follow this up in a future lesson.

Michael Marr is 16 years old. He has just left school.

He:

- Is popular with teachers and other kids
- Is good looking
- Has achieved good grades in English, Maths, Geography, Chemistry, Physics & PE
- Is interested in helping people
- Likes school but would like to start earning money soon

As a group decide the following about Michael and write your answers in the boxes below:

What he is likely to be doing two years after leaving school (for example, do you think he will be in a job/ at college/ at university. What job might he be doing?)	What he is likely to be doing when he is 30 years old.

Michaela Marr is 16 years old. She has just left school.

She:

- Is popular with teachers and other kids
- Is good looking
- Has achieved good grades in English, Maths, Geography, Chemistry, Physics & PE
- Is interested in helping people
- Likes school but would like to start earning money soon.

As a group decide the following about Michaela and write your answers in the boxes below:

What she is likely to be doing two years after leaving school (for example, do you think she will be in a job/ at college/ at university. What job might she be doing?)	What she is likely to be doing when she is 30 years old.