

E+ Vox - Connections participants interview each other to find out how they felt about taking part in the project

KEY:

I: Interviewer
ONL: On screen (leftmost)
ONM: On screen (middle)
ONR: On screen (rightmost)

I: What are your general thoughts on Connections?

ONR: I think it's a great way to get to know people from all different places and interact with people you've never met before.

ONM: I've learnt a lot more about the inner workings of Stormont.

ONL: It's allowed people the opportunity to engage with politicians that they may never have thought they could engage with. It allows them to basically see how government works.

I: What were the best bits of the project?

ONR: Definitely the week where we made the movies and we were on the road and getting taxis everywhere, important stuff. I think that was the best bit - in your groups and we all got really close.

ONM: I found the MLA round tables very interesting.

ONL: Making the actual videos was interesting because you had to learn a bit about multimedia and editing and how all that stuff works as well and what goes on in the background of Stormont. That it all isn't really just government and politicians, that there's actual work in the background in relation to media.

I: Is there anything you would change or do differently?

ONR: No.

ONL: I thought everything was co-ordinated really well honestly.

ONR: It was all really good. The only problem would be is that we have to get off school to go to it but you can't really do anything about that.

I: What have you learnt while doing the project?

ONR: There's a lot of people behind the scenes other than the politicians that you just see on TV and they put a lot of work and effort into projects like this so they can actually exist. If you go for it, the opportunities are there.

ONM: I've learnt a lot more about opportunities, getting involved in things and politics.

ONL: I've learnt a lot about mental health because that was our topic of focus. Because you don't realise how neglected the issue actually is. It's only been recently that you're hearing it actually on the radio, or mentioned on the news. So it's definitely the mental health aspect.

ONR: And different people as well. I've been in contact with people I would have never have come into contact with in my life and as their ideas and their views are completely different from mine I thought I wouldn't get along with them but we're all really good friends now.

ONL: It's opened up your mind to other political views as well instead of being so narrow minded.

ONR: And put down stereotypes.

ONM: And it's shown that mental health is an issue that affects everyone, no matter what your political view is and everyone wants to help.