

LEARNING ACTIVITY 10

PSTD & Mental Health - Enlisting & Basic Training

Using **Learning Resource 6a**, listen to the Radio Interview that students Bess, Gracie & Jamai from St Matthew Academy in Lewisham, created. It deals with recruiting for the armed services and uses the story of George from Scotland.

Next, listen to/watch/read the original extract of George telling his story. Think about how young he was and although he joined up to see the world, he was still excited to find that in his first posting he was sent to Coventry - in England.

1. Working in pairs

Consider what are the reasons that someone would join the Army, RAF or Navy? Why might it be a good career choice for a young person? Write down your ideas together. Can you think of reasons why a career in the military might not be the right choice for some young people? Write down your ideas.

2. Discussion or Debate

Have a classroom discussion about why young people should or should not, join up/enlist in the military.

OR

Divide students into 2 debating groups who have to make the arguments either for or against enlisting in the military. At the end of the debate, the class and teacher can vote as to which side was most convincing and made the best case.

3. Questions

What questions would you want to ask a veteran to find out why they had joined up and what happened when they went to the recruiting office? Write down 5 questions and share as classroom discussion.

4. Write your own script of an interview between a young man or woman and a recruiting officer. Using the veterans' experiences as your inspiration you can create a back story for your veteran - eg. Where have they come from? Why they want to enlist? Etc.

To help inform all of the above activities, you can listen to/watch/read

Learning Resource 6b which contains extracts of veterans being interviewed about their experiences of enlisting in the armed forces and of their basic training.