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**GARY
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* IF YOU BELIEVE * YOU CAN ACHIEVE *

**MOTIVATIONAL
SPEAKING &
LIFE COACHING**

Motivation Pronunciation: /məʊti'veɪʃ(ə)n/
(a) the act or process of motivating
(b) the condition of being motivated

Recommendations & Testimonials

The following testimonials have been collated from letters of endorsement, post presentation evaluation forms, social media updates and printed materials published in the press. Student feedback is always anonymised although an indication of year group / age is generally provided.

Ashton-in-Makerfield 2015



"Thank you very much for coming in and sharing your inspiring story"

"I really enjoyed the teachings and he has made me feel like I can do anything"

"I thoroughly enjoyed the assembly, it was very inspiring"

Year 7 – 11 student feedback

"Mr Skyner is living proof that there is nothing that cannot be achieved if you believe you can!"

Anna Dobson, Curriculum Support, Cansfield
Publication: Wigan Evening Post (19/11/15)

"You were our first visitor to a full assembly and it proved a massive success we will look now to making this a more regular occurrence, so a massive thank you."

Lisa Rothwell, Lead Practitioner, Cansfield

"Gary engaged the audience from the start. His personality shone through and you felt a real connection with him."

His sense of humour, timing, the message he got across loud and clear and the fact the students are still talking about him, show the impact he made."

I would definitely recommend him to other schools. It was a pleasure to meet him."

Jackie Jones, Deputy Headteacher, Cansfield

Audience: 800 year 7 – 11 students and 80 members of staff

Preston 2015



"Gary's inspiring message certainly showed the students that with application and ambition they can achieve anything they want"

Publication: Moor News (Winter 2015)

"Made me think different, funny and engaging"
Year 11 learner

"It was great! Funny and serious, great lesson and inspirational."

Year 11 learner

Audience: Year 11 students

Lancashire 2015



"It was perfect because he proved that everything is possible"

Prince's Trust learner

"Big thanks to Gary Skyner for the motivational and very funny speech given to our learners today, they were truly inspired. We can't wait to have you back here again soon!"

West Lancashire College Social Media Site

Audience: Prince's Trust development course
Return visit following staff motivation early 2015

Woolton 2014



Audience: 11-16 year old boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties

"The message Gary gave to the boys was serious and poignant. The boys were visibly moved by it. Many of the points Gary raised were interesting, informative and provoked conversation. Important in helping children come to terms with some of the issues in their own lives. The boys found that they could easily relate to Gary's struggles. It was a valuable experience for the boys."

Steve McKenna, Deputy Headmaster
Woolton High School

Southport 2013



"Gary has given us all something to think about. It is most impressive what he has achieved against the odds and we shall long remember his presentation."

The Thalidomide scandal has long gone from most peoples' memories so it was very timely to be reminded of it."

**Roger Coopey, Conference Chairman
Rotary International (District 1060)**

Durham 2013



"Myself and the whole group thoroughly enjoyed your talk. The presentation was clear, and the message well delivered."

**Mim Arbia, Diversity Manager
HMP Durham**

Audience: Category B male prisoners

Cumbria 2013



"A big thank you for everything you did on Tuesday – everyone had a great day!"

**Sarah Edwards, Learning Manager
Workers' Educational Association**

**Audience: Members of Copeland
Occupational & Social Centre**

Cronton 2013



"Two fantastic and engaging motivational slots at both our Sixth Form and F.E sites -a huge success.

Our students from both A level and vocational studies were educated and entertained! Tutors

and students have asked if you can come back again next year and I have replied to say 100% yes.

On a serious note, once they'd all stopped laughing at your jokes, conversations in relation to disability, self-belief and assumptions took over. I am confident that for some, attitudes have changed forever."

**Maxine Mealey, Head of School
Cronton Sixth Form College**

**Audience: 16 – 18 year old students
Returned 2014 & 2015**

Liverpool 2013



"The whole experience was very enjoyable and you had everyone engaged from the minute you started speaking.

I think from a reducing re-offending perspective it was really useful for the prisoners to see how much can be achieved with hard work and self-belief. It would be impossible for anyone listening to your story not to feel motivated and empowered once you had finished!"

**Nicola Blackburn & David Jones
Equalities and Inclusion Officers**

Audience: Category B/C male prisoners

Windsor 2012



"We wanted an after dinner speaker who would both entertain our sales staff but also motivate them to realise their potential and exceed their customers' expectations.

Gary was both humorous and entertaining. His life story is inspiring and his battles with major drug companies enthralling. I would thoroughly recommend Gary to anyone looking for an after dinner speaker"

**Chris Manning, UK Sales Director
Patterson Medical**

Preston 2011



"We are really privileged to have such an inspirational speaker and I know that you have

made a lasting impression on so many, young and old. Thank you for inspiring our students with such an uplifting and positive performance"

**Anne Russell, Head of Chaplaincy
Cardinal Newman College**

**Audience: 16 – 18 year old students
Returned 2012, 2013 & 2014**

Chester 2011



University of
Chester

"His well crafted and articulate delivery, blends polemical argument, biography and humour, producing a memorable and compelling bespoke performance.

It framed the ideas of argumentation, presentation and campaigning so vividly that it was a performance which the students and myself will never forget."

**Ian Rasmussen, Senior Lecturer
University of Chester**

Audience: Degree students 18 years plus

Blackpool 2011



"Humorous, relevant to disability and extremely inspirational. I hope to hear him talk again in the future"

"Inspiring!"

**Feedback from attendees
at the NAEP Annual Conference**

"Very funny and inspirational session"

Halton 2009



Made me think about my life and I can do anything if I put my mind to it"

(IT level 2 learner)

"I found Gary very interesting, made me open my eyes to disabilities"
(A level learner)

"made me even more determined to succeed not only for myself but for them, as an example of what you can achieve in life despite any circumstances or disabilities, with the right attitude and determination"
(Access to HE learner)

**Audience: 16-18 year old students
Returned 2013, 2014 & 2015**

Middlesbrough 2009



"Thank you for attending our AGM. Your motivational talk was an inspiration to everybody who attended the event. Feedback from the delegates was very positive and supportive of your presentation."

**Catherine Haycroft
Tees Valley Social Care & Health Alliance**

Cumbria 2009



"It was wonderfully inspirational and heart-warming. We listen to many speakers who have achieved some great sporting success but all appear to have begun with every advantage which life can offer."

Your talk showed how personal courage and determination can surmount the most daunting of obstacles and result in success, respect and the admiration of all."

**Barry Snelson, Managing Director
Sellafield Ltd**

Audience: Apprentices aged 16 years plus
