

## **Schools welcome value of business input into students' working futures**

Schools across Doncaster are opening their doors to local employers keen to share their expertise and insight with students who will soon be venturing into the world of work.

Experts in marketing, transport, IT, hospitality and catering, are among those who have been working with students as part of a unique employer engagement training programme.

Presentations, mock interviews and practical workshops with businesses are helping prepare students across Doncaster for what to expect once they leave school or college and realise the skills they need to develop and survive in a work environment

The free training sessions for employers offer an insight into today's education system, including information and advice on how to engage with students and tap into the potential workforce of the future.

Provided by Jacqui Jameson Associates as part of Doncaster's Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI), the Effective Partnership training sessions are having a positive impact on schools and businesses alike.

Tim Jones is Head of Business Studies at Hayfield School. He regularly invites employers to act as business 'dragons' to judge student presentations and to support a mock job interview programme for Year 10 students.

He said: "It's important to have local employers involved because it helps deliver key aspects of enterprise education, work related learning and careers education guidance."

Hayfield, like many other Doncaster schools and colleges, has already hosted several employers including the Northern Racing School, Lux Hair & Beauty, and Ye Olde Bell Inn hotel; all have been through Jacqui Jameson's partnership programme.

Balby Carr Community Sports and Science College has been involved with the training from the beginning. Careers Coordinator Keith Old feels it has bridged the gap between education and the world of work.

He said: "The college has benefited a great deal from the involvement of the business community partners as they have brought their own specialist knowledge into the curriculum. Such experiences can only help to raise the aspirations and abilities of students.

"The feedback from students has been very positive with a recognition that contributions from employers can widen their knowledge and understanding of key important issues."

Balby Carr has since developed a 'business buddies' scheme offering further opportunities for local employers to get involved with the college.

Jacqui Jameson's team of training and education experts delivers the Effective Partnership sessions under the Doncaster Enterprise for Learning (DE4L) project, which is part of the overall Success Doncaster (LEGI) programme. The Effective Partnership sessions are free and each delegate receives £200 for attending. For more information about the free programme and to book places, contact Jacqui Jameson on 07703 127974 or by email:

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