



**Name: Clair Strydom**

**Organisation and role: Directions The National Aviation Academy,  
Communications Manager**

### **Flying high to encourage learning partnerships**

Clair Strydom is the communications manager at Directions The National Aviation Academy which has hosted several local businesses and schools on fact-finding tours and presentations.

Clair says the tours, which are part of the DE4L programme, are an ideal way of encouraging and developing partnerships with employers and schools. "It's important for us to be working with the DE4L programme because it promotes our primary objective at Directions to ensure that the development of the UK's first international airport for 40 years brings benefits to both local businesses and individuals."

Directions is in the process of completing multi-million pound refurbishments of two hangars at Robin Hood Airport with the funding coming from Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and the Humber, and a supporting contribution from the European Union. One of the Hangars houses the National Aviation Academy, which offers a huge variety of training courses, from basic customer care to qualifications for aviation engineers.

Another hangar contains a state-of-the-art jet completion centre which will be capable of painting corporate aircraft, cabin refurbishment and supporting aviation engineering services. Directions has facilitated training for over 6,000 people and entertained thousands of schoolchildren from across northern England in the past three years.

Directions encourages learning at all levels and already works closely with several Doncaster schools and colleges. Clair, who is also personal assistant to the Directions Chief Executive, said: "The DE4L initiative creates excellent opportunities for learners and organisations alike."