

Berwick upon Tweed Community High School

This is a Community High School for 14 to 18 year olds, with 800 on roll in rural north Northumberland. Its specialism is Business and Enterprise and Applied Learning. The learners involved in this project were 24 Year 13 students.

The objective of this particular partnership with employers is to give Year 13 pupils a hands-on insight into running their own business and to develop enterprise and employability skills by businesses providing financial and in-kind support.

Six start up businesses provided with initial support, prime funding and ongoing guidance from a team of business mentors. The expected outcome will be to establish business capability in participating students which will allow them to continue post school with viable businesses, and enhance their Key Stage 5 study.

Berwick Workspace (a business incubation centre) and Bridges to Work the Berwick upon Tweed Community High School business links organisation) designed the project to engage 24 budding entrepreneurs and support them in starting and developing their own business culminating in an official presentation to a team of `Dragons` from Berwick Workspace. The business teams include: Glistening Gowns and Blazing Blazers, Budding Idea, Get Smoothied, Venue Events Management, Candy Rocks and Student Lair.

The students have regular progress reviews throughout the winter and spring terms and the winning company will be awarded the Workspace Challenge Award for Enterprise.

The Businesses involved in this project are, Berwick WorkSpace, TEDCO, Gateway BSS, Glendale PR Consultancy, Servitir and Bright Quarter and the Newcastle Journal. The benefits to the employer include increased awareness of how schools are moulding future entrepreneurs, exposure to new recruitment streams and of more skilled candidates, internal review of own business model, identify self development opportunities, create a positive impact on the local economy, have the opportunity to see the dynamic approach of young learners and third party mentoring skills.

Students gain many valuable skills as a result of engaging with this

- Increased self confidence
- Team working capability
- Risk taking but in a relatively safe environment
- Initiative
- Research and analytical skills
- Business awareness
- Financial awareness
- Increases career choices
- Key contacts, friends and mentors for the future

This project will be the pilot for a wide range of future opportunities for students. The partnership with Berwick Workspace offers excellent opportunities for students to develop their business and enterprise knowledge and skills in a real world environment. They will be able to form strong relationships with a wide range of real business mentors to support their learning, take ownership

and responsibility for commitments made and significantly increase their confidence and employability skills.

To find out more visit: www.berwickhighschool.co.uk and/or www.berwickworkspace.co.uk