

## **Ladymead Community School**

Ladymead Community School is a mixed Specialist Technology College, for 11-16 year olds with 800 students in Taunton, Somerset. This is an urban area covering the population of Taunton parish and closely surrounding villages (total 60,000).

The primary objective of this partnership is to establish a school-centred Education Business Partnership to support work related learning throughout the school.

As a result of its specialist designation, the school had established a number of technology links but the member of staff with responsibility for Work Related Learning was concerned that there were few links across the broader curriculum and Work Related Learning was not embedded in all subjects.

### **Employer side background**

Various employers from across a number of sectors were involved. They are from the public sector; education; waste management; hospitality; construction; financial, and also food and drink manufacturing.

The proposed Membership of The Taunton Academy EBP from September 2010 is the Academy partners: Somerset College, Queens College, Viridor, NHS Somerset & the Clifton Diocese; UK Hydrographic Office; WPA (Western Provident Association); Milsted Langdon; Taunton Chamber of Commerce; Recruitment South West; Holiday Inn; Taunton Deane Direct Labour Organisation; C S Williams; Clarke Wilmott; Somerset EBP; RSPCA; Ministry of Cake; Somerset Active Sport Partnership; Playing for Success and Thrive Arts, Somerset. Further partners to be identified

### **Primary objectives of partnership with education**

The objectives were as varied as the membership. For example, businesses cited a wish to get involved in the local community, to raise their profile or an opportunity to see what went on in schools. Very few identified direct benefits to employee skills development or recruitment pipeline as a primary objective.

### **Partnership activity**

- Professional development of teaching staff – several staff have benefitted via curriculum links and PDPs.
- Supporting STEM subjects
- Diploma support – some EBP members provide support to the Taunton Deane and West Somerset 14-19 partnership, of which the school is a member, but not directly as a result of the Ladymead link
- Work experience – several EBP members provide work experience placements in a 5 day block for Year 10 pupils
- Workplace visits – no detailed knowledge
- Supporting projects – Richard Browne of Yule Browne Estate Agents is one example of running a business/art & design project in school where students developed new advertising material for the company
- Classroom talks to students – no detailed knowledge

- Supporting enterprise activities – the majority of business members of the EBP release a member of their staff for a whole day to support the days run by Somerset EBP for the whole of Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 (30 staff days per year). Staff support and encourage 25+ students in one room working in small teams.
- Helping students make career choices – business members visit the school to talk to Year 10 / 11 students for up to one hour on career opportunities in their business and sector.

#### Activity resourcing

The school funds the enterprise activity days from its Local Authority Grant Payment which is not ring fenced. Other aspects of hosting students on work experience or group visits or hosting teacher visits or where the business supports an activity in the school are costs to the business not met by the school or another party.

Find out more

The newsletter on [www.ladymead.somerset.sch.uk](http://www.ladymead.somerset.sch.uk)

Information on Somerset EBP is available on [www.ebp-somerset.org.uk](http://www.ebp-somerset.org.uk)