



## Today's Students, Tomorrow's Workforce.

Welcome to our Spring 2009 Newsletter. The importance of 'employer engagement' has never been more evident and the recent announcement of the creation of the Institute of Education Business Excellence reflects the changes that are taking place nationally. The Department of Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) has recently published a new Employer Engagement strategy, which outlines the various ways in which employers can support the learning process, such as offering Work Experience, workplace visits, or working with students to improve their interview or enterprise skills. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the employers who have supported the work of Enfield EBP last year. We recognise that, in the current economic climate, some businesses may find it more difficult to continue to support schools and colleges in the way that they have in the past. However, we hope that you will nonetheless be able to continue to help us support **'Today's Students'** in becoming **'Tomorrow's Workforce'**. We look forward to working with you in 2009.

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**Enfield**  
Education  
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# Celebration and Networking Success!



Over 150 delegates representing the many types of partnerships that Enfield EBP has with the local education and business communities gathered together in late November for our annual celebration and networking evening at the Royal Chace Hotel. The event was a resounding success with presentations from young people from Galliard Primary School, Albany School and Edmonton County School about some of the Work Related Learning activities they're been involved in. There were also contributions from Ministry Protection Services about the reasons why offering Work Experience opportunities to school students is so important to them as a company.

Our two guest speakers, the Director for Education, Children's Services & Leisure in

Enfield and the Chair of the National EBP Network praised the quality of the presentations by the students and also spoke about the importance of employers' support for education in helping young people develop their employability skills and to learn more about the world of work.

The event took place during the 2008 National Enterprise Week during which schools, colleges and other organisations, not only across the UK but across the rest of the world as part of the first Global Entrepreneurship week, focussed on providing opportunities to challenge young people and to help them develop enterprise skills and an enterprising to approach to addressing the issues they are faced with.

# The Midas Touch

Students from Enfield College and Kingsmead School were amazed on their recent workplace visit to Goldgenie when they were given the opportunity to goldplate a range of metal items, including their own ipods, keys and mobile phones. Director and entrepreneur, Laban Roomes, gave the students an interesting and personal account of his business, his appearance on BBC's Dragon's Den and his plans for the future. There was also an opportunity for students to ask him questions directly. Students were shown a range of gold-plated items, including: golf clubs, golf balls, a Nintendo Wii, a rose and car badges. The visit concluded with a mock Dragon's Den activity in which students showcased a new product to three Dragons for consideration, with an overall winner receiving one of Goldgenie's gold plated products.



## Catalyst: Life Long Learning UK

Last year, Enfield EBP co-ordinated the pan-London Catalyst programme of Professional Development Placements with Life Long Learning UK. This particular scheme resulted in nearly 70 placements taking place across London, with over 50 of these being organised by Enfield EBP, for Enfield College, Southgate College and North London Garages. The placements have been diverse, ranging from Music with the Irish Guards at Buckingham Palace, the London Ambulance Service, Cornwall Fisheries Resource Centre and an E-On power station. For further details about the Catalyst programme this year and other CPD opportunities contact Maxine Reed at Enfield EBP.



# Millfield Theatre – a Great Performer

Millfield Theatre is a great performer when it comes to working with local schools. Marc Day, Operations Manager at Millfield explains the benefits of working with these students: *“Introducing students to the world of theatre is always a delight and is an area that we are keen to develop at Millfield. Giving students the opportunity to experience and understand the customer care and business aspects of Theatre and the arts is high on our priorities.”*

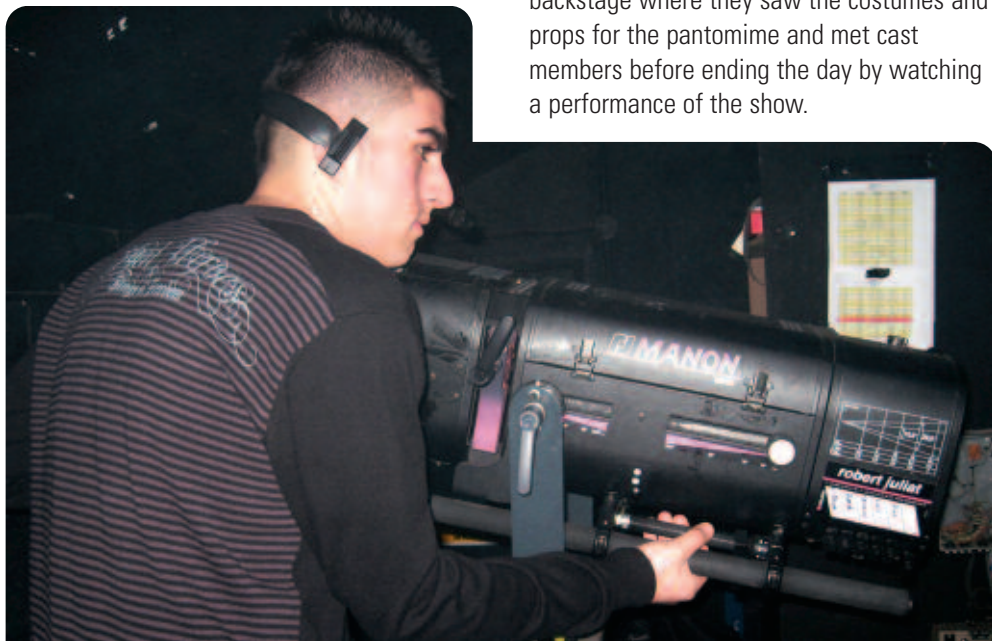
Emma Robinson, the Education and Outreach Officer added: *“Work experience is such a valuable opportunity for young people and needs employers who will provide quality places. Here at Millfield we enjoy being able to offer placements and work hard to ensure that the young person gets a realistic experience of working in an Arts Centre and Theatre. Ultimately our aim is to ensure the*



*young person feels welcome and part of the Millfield team, this helps their confidence enormously and reminds them that Millfield is their local Arts Centre and Theatre”.*

In December a number of students took part in Work Experience at the theatre as part of their leisure and tourism course, working front of house during the busy panto season. One Work Experience student was invited back as a member of staff to operate the spotlight for the show.

A group of students from Enfield County School enjoyed an educational visit that introduced them to all aspects of the theatre. They learnt about the processes of producing a show and spoke to industry professionals to find out about the varied careers available in the performance industry. They went backstage where they saw the costumes and props for the pantomime and met cast members before ending the day by watching a performance of the show.



# Work Experience Goes Full Circle



Jason Wright from Alexandra Tool Hire recently phoned Enfield Work Experience asking if we could help find him an apprentice. What was interesting is that the Jason himself started at the company through work experience. Now he is Store Manager and the whole process was going full circle.

When Jason went there as a student on Work Experience he expected to be given the jobs that no-one else wanted to do, but that wasn't the case. He enjoyed it so much he didn't want to go back to school. When he left school he got a letter from the company saying that they remembered him as a keen worker from his Work Experience, and asked if he would

like to work for them. He started work that same day - 13 years ago!

Another worker at Alexandra Tool Hire, Peter Woolstonecroft was also a Work Experience student there 12 years ago. After leaving school he applied for a job at the company and because they knew him from his work experience they were happy to take him on as an apprentice.

As Jason has seen Work Experience from both sides, we asked him how he felt it benefited students and employers: "It's nice

to get the youngsters in. Often they are very quiet in the first week but gradually they come out of their shell and you see them gain confidence. The majority are hardworking and we give them projects to do to keep them interested such as assembling and stripping down machinery and showing them how it works.

I prefer to take on apprentices as you can mould them to what you want. We don't have a blame culture here - if mistakes are made we say 'own up, don't cover up' and that way we all learn and the students benefit."

Alexandra Tool Hire continues to take many students on work experience and has two apprentices at present. They have earned the SafeHire accreditation eight years in a row, the Investors in People award and are triple winners of Hire Company of the Year, showing that working with the community can also be good for business! For further information about the company visit [www.hiretools.com](http://www.hiretools.com).



# Construction Skills at Southgate College

Southgate College hosted the Lovell Construction Skills day for a group of students from Enfield County, Highlands and Chace Community schools during which they were able to develop their communication, bricklaying and carpentry skills. By the end of the day, the students had developed a real sense of achievement from what they had learnt.

The programme began with the students giving a presentation on the impact of

construction in the environment, and their enthusiasm really impressed the Lovell staff who were in the audience. The students then moved to the second part of the day when they had an opportunity to take part in a real 'hands-on' activity building a wall and making wooden bird boxes which they could take home.

All three schools will now go onto the next stage of the Lovell Construction Challenge programme.



# STEM

Don't worry if you've not come across the acronym 'STEM' before! It just stands for Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths. It's an important Government initiative that was first introduced in 1996. Its aim is to ensure that more young people in the UK make a choice to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics related careers at all levels, and future generations are properly informed about the science and technology that surrounds them. STEMNET is the national organisation that supports the promotion of STEM. It does this through a variety of programmes including the Science & Engineering Ambassadors (SEAs) programme and also through its 'Enhancement & Enrichment' programme.

Enfield EBP has just been awarded the STEMNET 'Brokerage' contract for North London and, over the next couple of years

or so, we will be working closely with the other EBPs in the participating boroughs in the North London region to help increase the number of employers involved in supporting STEM Enhancement & Enrichment activities in schools and colleges. We'll shortly be setting up a new section on our website to publicise further details, but in the meantime if you'd like further information about STEMNET, particularly if you are an employer involved in 'STEM' and you would like to find out more about getting involved, visit [www.stemnet.org.uk](http://www.stemnet.org.uk) or email us at [stempoint@enfield-ebp.org.uk](mailto:stempoint@enfield-ebp.org.uk).

STEMNET programmes cover the whole 5-19 age-range and are supported by a wide range of organisations, many of which are listed, together with information about the activities they can help deliver, in the STEM Directories ([www.stemdirectories.org.uk](http://www.stemdirectories.org.uk)).

## Preparing for University

How prepared are your students for their university entrance interviews? Do they understand their strengths? No matter which university they have applied for, students feel vulnerable at the prospect of their first meaningful interview – are they prepared? Can they make the most of their talents? St Anne's Catholic School for Girls decided to help their Year 13 students by asking Enfield EBP to arrange mock entrance interviews that were mirrored from those on the university web sites. Emphasis was given on subject matter expertise, and the interviewers understood the differing requirements of the universities. Students found the process hugely beneficial, as the shown by this comment that one of them made after her interview: *"having an opportunity to have mistakes highlighted, possible answers suggested, all in a safe environment, is surely the epitome of good practice"*.

# Language Matters

To celebrate the European Day of Languages last term, Year 10 students from Highlands School attended language presentations given by representatives from the Chilean Embassy and EBP Project Coordinator, Helen Castellon.

Having used her language skills across a number of industry sectors including, public relations and travel & tourism, Helen gave an interesting account of the value of language skills in the employment market. In particular, she accredited her

success at securing employment at VISA, the Barcelona Olympic Games and the Spanish Tourist Office down to the fact that she had studied a second language.

To mark the event, Enfield EBP set students a 'languages in employment' challenge with the winner receiving book tokens.



## Contact us

If you need anymore information please contact:

### **Enfield EBP**

Enfield Business Centre, 201 Hertford Road, Enfield EN3 5JH

Telephone: 020 8443 2114

Email: [info@enfield-ebp.org.uk](mailto:info@enfield-ebp.org.uk)

Fax: 020 8443 3822

Websites: [www.enfield-ebp.org.uk](http://www.enfield-ebp.org.uk)  
[www.enfield-workex.org.uk](http://www.enfield-workex.org.uk)



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