



# YOUNG DRAGONS

## BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROJECT

### Could you be a Business Enterprise Volunteer?

The Young Dragons Business Enterprise Programme is a new and exciting project that has been designed to give students the opportunities to prepare for working life by setting up and running a real business, supported by their teachers and local volunteers from the business world. The young people open bank accounts, sell shares, take on business roles, provide products and/or services and participate in trade fairs, business conferences and competitions.

As well as supporting young people who wish to run traditional companies, we are encouraging social enterprises, where profits are reinvested into social, community or environmental objectives.

We need people from business and the wider community who are able to give a little time to support these students; volunteers from a range of organisations within Kent and Medway who have a diverse set of skills to share and who are willing to get involved.



# We are seeking two kinds of volunteers:

**Business Enterprise Volunteers (BEVs)** are professionals who work alongside teachers in school for an hour or two per week during term time, presenting and facilitating the Young Dragons Programme, and bringing a business perspective to young people's endeavours. These volunteers do not need to be specialists in a particular area of business; they just need to bring their experience and enthusiasm into the classroom. Each new BEV will receive a volunteer pack and be fully briefed on how to present and facilitate the programme alongside the teacher.

**eBEVs** are those who cannot afford time to go into schools, but are willing to be linked via email to one or more students, to offer on line advice and guidance about a specific area of business.

All volunteers will be briefed and trained, and supported by the Project Steering Group every step of the way.

Working as a Business Enterprise Volunteer can be of enormous benefit to employees and members of the wider community, particularly in developing confidence, interpersonal and management skills. Many employers and professional institutes see this kind of industry and education liaison as a means of contributing towards Continuous Professional Development. Most of all, however, our volunteers will take great enjoyment from working with groups of enthusiastic and creative young people and their teachers.

We are launching the project with a Business Excellence Conference on 18 November 2009, during National Enterprise Week. If you are interested in becoming a BEV or eBEV, or would like to learn more about how your organisation can sponsor the project, please contact Toni Clarke on 01634 204995, or email [mebp@btinternet.com](mailto:mebp@btinternet.com)

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