ebpress
Summer Roundup 2011

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Science Fair is best yet!

EBP is celebrating the phenomenal success of one of its biggest annual events – its Primary School Science Fair. Held aboard **HMS Warrior** in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard, the three day event saw over 1,000 children from primary schools across the area attend workshops run by representatives from the region's most prestigious businesses, local authority and educational organisations.

'An event like this would not be possible without all the support we receive from so many people,' said Jacquie Jones, Event Co-ordinator for the EBP. 'We are so grateful for all the time and effort our Business Ambassadors have put into helping the children understand the importance of learning science and the variety of careers it can lead to.'

Organised in association with the **Royal Society of Chemistry**, leading pharmaceutical company **Pfizer, Portsmouth Water** and the **University of Portsmouth's** 'Up For It Juniors' scheme, the children from Years 5 and 6 took part in activities provided by companies including **BAE Systems, EADS Astrium Ltd, Selex Sensors** and **Pall Europe** and organisations such as the **Royal Navy, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust** and **Portsmouth City Council**.

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As many of you are aware, in March, the government decided to withdraw its central funding stream for work experience and work related learning with immediate effect, leaving EBPs without their core funding to support schools. Despite the recent difficulties, I am pleased to let you know that following some radical restructuring and reduction of our infrastructure costs we are in a position to continue to offer a full service to schools and believe that we have a strong future ahead.

Most secondary schools have now signed up to a Service Level Agreement with us, we have a new Primary School offer and are also developing our offer for colleges and others.
Sadly we have had to make seven redundancies which has been very tough, particularly in such a small, close knit organisation. We value our staff highly and it is very sad to see some of them go. We have, however, been able to save the jobs of over two thirds of our 23 staff.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who have continued to offer your support, and made a commitment to continuing to work with us and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Cath Longhurst
Chief Executive

Cooking Competition Kicks Off

Over 60 secondary school students from across Portsmouth gathered at Fire & Stone pizza restaurant in Gunwharf Quays to attend the launch of an annual cooking competition that has proven to be a much anticipated highlight in the local school calendar.

Now in its fifth year, The EBP's annual '*Celebrity Chef Challenge*' tasks students to compete in teams against other schools in a series of heats held in the professional kitchens of Highbury College. Participants are encouraged to create their own two course menus from locally sourced, seasonal produce whilst documenting their research and decision-making. This year, the competition requirements have an extra 'celebrity twist'.
For more information on the challenge please visit:
http://www.portsmouthebp.co.uk/site/celebrity_chef_challenge

Future's Bright for Website Winners

After many months of hard work and competition from teams representing secondary schools across the region, Year 9 and 10 students from Horndean Technology College have been announced the winners of this year's Schools' Website Challenge 2011.
The professionalism, creativity and business acumen demonstrated by finalists in the annual Challenge not only impressed the judges who had the unenviable task of deciding upon a winner, but astounded the audience of parents, teachers and supporters who attended the event at IBM Headquarters in May.

Services Showcased at Charter

The Year 10 students at Charter Academy were recently given the opportunity to meet representatives from the spectrum of Emergency and Armed Services during an activity career day held at the school.

Should there have been any kind of emergency that day, city centre school Charter Academy could not have been better protected. With representatives from the Army, Navy and RAF, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, St John's Ambulance and Portsmouth City Council's Road Safety Team all providing activities at the school to showcase careers within their services, students were given plenty of ideas to consider after they finish their studies.

PC Oliver (*Hampshire Road Police*) Fran Wright (*EBP Project Coordinator)*, Millie Tisdall, Ashley Cole, Courtney Carver, Tom Gregson, Kamila Zielinska, Lucia Hyzova, Yvonne Griffiths (*Maths and Year 10 Tutor)* Jordan Binks, Ajai Harman, Connor Duffin, Jordan Styler-Boden, Rakan Alotaibi and PC Burton (*Safer Neighbourhood Team*)

Primary Programme

We have recently launched a primary programme to all primary and junior schools. Providing a tailored programme of business support and activities that benefit teachers and pupils.

If you would like to find out how to get your school involved please contact:

Tina Hennessy, Operations Manager at EBP on Tel: 023 9228 3400

Students Learn from Technology Professionals

A variety of professionals representing some of the biggest companies in the region gathered at Gosport Submarine Museum in order to meet secondary school students interested in careers within the technology sector.

From well-known construction firms such as **Warings** and **BAM**, to niche companies including the leader in defence electronics, **Selex Galileo**, and international gas sensor specialists, **City Technology,** representatives from the world of technology gave an insight into their work and answered questions from Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils keen to follow in their professional footsteps.

Michael Miller a Yr 9 student from Havant Academy said, 'It has been a really useful day and has shown me a few careers that I had not been aware of. At this point, my ambition is to be an architect, but this event has helped me realise how those skills can be applied to areas of work I had not considered'

What the employer's had to say....

...some comments about Crofton School students - 'An excellent student who shows promise. Daniel was quick to learn new concepts, was conscientious and a pleasure to have for the week.' – **Julie Button, Cowan Consultancy Ltd.**

'Mollie was a model student.' – **John Underdown, Paragon Skills for Industry**

'Katie is a very enthusiastic young lady who has adapted well to the working environment.' – **Charles Hawkes, Gosport Community Association**

...some comments about City Girls students - 'Becky was a reliable and helpful student. She got on well with her fellow workers and did not mind helping them with their jobs' – **Angela Kish, Oakland Grange**

'Faye has been a pleasure to work with. She has been brilliant at every task assigned to her. Her customer service and team work was "spot on" from day one.' – **H.R Brown, Mambo**

What the student's had to say....

My work placement was in Port Solent as a Marina Assistant and I really enjoyed it.. I applied for lots of placements online but kept being turned down as other people got there quicker. I was eventually accepted onto this placement.
I attended an interview the week before my placement was to start to run through arrangements and safety aspects of the placement. My work started at 9.00 a.m. and finished at 5.00 p.m. My Dad took me every morning as transport to Port Solent is awkward. On my first day I was shown around and went through safety procedures and things. Throughout the week I helped with facility checks, moving boats, ropes, operating the lock, admin work, registering boats as well as driving small boats and learning how to work them. Also, as it was the summer, I ate lunch by the sea edge every day. It was an amazing experience and I loved it! I wished I could have done it for 2 weeks. The only negative part I can think of was the strictness of safety but that was understandable. I developed independence, confidence and my knowledge of boats.

Sophie Mitra, Horndean Technology College

'From this work experience I have learnt that communication skills are valuable in jobs as you will need to converse with fellow employees whilst at work'. ***Reece Butler***

'My colleagues were very supportive and gave me lots of advice and personal experiences to help me become successful in the joinery trade'. ***Martin Good***

'I learnt what employers look for in an employee, punctuality, enthusiasm, confidence and able to work well with a team'. ***Sophie Doust***

To read the Students full accounts of their work experience visit:

http://www.portsmouthebp.co.uk/site/work_experience

Science Fair Photo Gallery!

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'Encouraging children to understand and learn about science is crucial to our future,' explained Pauline French, Quality Assurance Manager for sponsors Pfizer who showcased examples of bacteria and conducted experiments to show the difference between acids and alkalis. 'The pupils have been interested and really enjoyed the interaction of practical workshops.'

'We have been making bouncy rubber balls from PVA glue,' said Matt Edwards, Senior Analytical Chemist from PALL Europe. 'I was surprised at just how enthusiastic and engaged all the children have been. It's been a thoroughly enjoyable experience.'

Pupils Examine the Depths of the Mary Rose

Year 8 students from Crofton School in Stubbington were given the opportunity to see how science studied at school can be used to uncover the hidden treasures of history such as those found by The Mary Rose Trust in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard.

As part of a government-funded 'Aim Higher' initiative that seeks to promote the importance of science and the careers it can offer pupils making decisions about exams and life after school, the EBP arranged a visit to The Mary Rose Trust for a group of keen young scientists. 'Experiences such as these give practical applications to the science we teach in school, very much bringing it to life,' explained Mr Brown, Deputy Faculty Leader of Science at Crofton School. 'We informed our students of a possible trip to see who was interested and the response was very positive and enthusiastic, so the EBP arranged it for us.'

Year 8 students from Crofton School in Stubbington with Clare Barnes, Learning Officer of Mary Rose Trust (*left*) and Professor Mark Jones, Head of Collections at the Mary Rose Trust

The Headhunter at Prospect School

Some may recognise him from the 'Cage Fighter' show on Sky Sports, others as the hottest talent in the UK Mixed Martial Arts, but for one afternoon, the acclaimed fighter known as 'Headhunter' let pupils at Prospect School in Havant meet the real man behind the hype, Nick Chapman.

As Nick Chapman stood up to address his audience, his sheer height and breadth was enough to stun any audience he towered over into silence, but within the first few minutes of his speaking, it was the honest account of his childhood and life growing up that provided the real source of inspiration to the boys' of Prospect School.

Nick's openness about his pretty poor start in life was touching and a complete revelation to many of the boys who are huge fans of both him and his sport.

The boys listened to him emphasise the importance of school and learning as it was presented from a completely new perspective from someone they admire. Jess Pemberton-James, Enterprise Manager at EBP said, "To give up his valuable time to simply come down and provide motivation and inspiration to the pupils at this school is more generous than we could ever have asked for. We know the impact of his presence and words will be felt long in the future".

A Day of 'Entrepreneurship'

On 29th March, it was with great pleasure that the EBP welcomed the star of last year's series of BBC TV show 'The Apprentice', Jamie Lester to Fareham College to kick off a day focussed on entrepreneurship. 'Jamie was an absolute star', said Suzanne Lewis, the EBP Project Co-ordinator who organised the visit. 'Not only did he captivate his audience with inspirational tales of his experience in business, he also set a few hearts a flutter!'.