

Lancashire Links

The Newsletter of
LANCASHIRE EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP
Edition No 3, July 08

BACK TO NATURE



Award winning Laneside Farm Waddington Nr Clitheroe was the venue for a recent Professional Development Day. The day was organised and co hosted by the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, Owners Sally & Ian McAlpine, LEBP and Farming & Countryside Education as part of the Year of Food and Farming.

With the launch of the 14-19 Diplomas, the first of which are to be piloted this September, the aim of the event was to showcase the industry involving a variety of speakers sharing their experiences and knowledge, on career paths & opportunities. The teachers were given examples on how skills taught in the classroom relate to the wider world of work.

For more information about further Professional Development opportunities please contact Christine James by email christine.james@lebp.co.uk or telephone 01254 584034

Philip Hammond, a maths teacher from Ribblesdale High School Clitheroe said it had been a worthwhile trip commenting "It's been good because the introduction of functional skills and the link between local industries means we are looking at this area. There are lots of opportunities for young people to consider rather than just going down the college route.

"Norma Shadlock an English teacher from Alder Grange Rawtenstall added "We have to teach functional skills so to do so in a contextual setting is more beneficial".

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LANCASHIRE'S YOUTH ACTION TEAM



Young people lead the way in shaping Lancashire's youth volunteering. As part of the LEBPs Youth Volunteering programme; involved team a group of 15 young people aged 16-25 have been recruited to form an advisory group to guide and steer the programme to reflect the passions, cares and interests of local young people. The Youth Action Team will be responsible for promoting youth volunteering across Lancashire, designing promotional resources and organising a launch event which is planned to take place later this year.

For more information on the involved team programme please contact:
Ella Wardleworth on 01254 584000
or e-mail ella.wardleworth@lebp.co.uk



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BUILDING BRIDGES

...WITH INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

During May, two members of staff from Lancashire Education Business Partnership visited Crookhey Hall School to deliver a Workability Workshop. During the morning the pupils built bridges out of wooden dowels and elastic bands and vehicles using K'NEX.

The school is an independent, special day school for boys aged 11-16 with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD). The owners of the school are Acorn Care and Education, who have a number of schools and a fostering service. Pupils travel to the school by taxi from local authorities, and draw pupils from Lancaster and Morecambe, Blackpool, Wigan and Blackburn.

Joelle Newby, who is Head of PSHE at the school organised the event had this to say about the workshop "The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities. They developed their team working, social skills and friendships. They were able to use their hands-on skills and challenge their mind to build a bridge strong enough to carry their K'NEX car. Not only did they develop a wide range of skills they became more confident in their own ability which is so valuable. I would like to thank the delivers on behalf of the boys who are keen to carry out the activity again or try a new one".



Saturday 26th April saw eight Lancashire schools battle it out to win the title of Lancashire Egg Loft Competition Champions 2008 hosted at Broughton Business and Enterprise College. Schools built rockets out of plastic bottles and other everyday items, then using water and compressed air, launched raw eggs into the air. The aim of the competition was to have the longest flight time and return the egg back down to earth without breaking it. More than a hundred people gathered to support the annual competition. Schools were mentored by SEAs in order to design a release mechanism for their rockets.

The winning school was Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic High School and Engineering College, Skelmersdale, who kept their egg aloft for 17.1 seconds.

The challenge is the brainchild of SEA Matthew Atherton who says "The Egg Loft Competition is a hands-on challenge that gives students the opportunity to put their physics and engineering skills to the test and provides an exciting taste of the problem solving skills required in the design of high performance machines".

Matthew and his father Michael, also a Science Engineering Ambassador, oversaw the progress made by the schools and responded to their technical enquiries during the competition.

SEAs involved in the competition: Richard Halstead, James Waldron, Harry Widger, John England, Shameem Sampath, Andrew Medd, John Moore, Victor Debattista, Paul Hardwick & Ian Rose.



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STIXX TALL TOWERS

The Sky's the Limit!

Hornby St Margaret's C of E Primary School hosted a surprise challenge for their pupils. Lancashire Education Business Partnership (LEBP) delivered a successful Tall Towers challenge using recycled newspaper.

The STIXX activities make use of flexible newspaper which is then converted almost magically into solid rods that can be used to build and manufacture a wide range of structures and items.

The children were introduced to Tall Towers via a presentation about some of the world's tallest buildings. After a short design stage, the children working in groups of six, manufactured newspaper rods and then constructed their towers in a set time limit.

The towers were all very different designs, and the pupils were given the chance to evaluate their designs and suggest changes, to make them more stable and taller.

All the pupils and teachers enjoyed the day. The headteacher said, "It was excellent content for a morning, with good pace and no chance for the pupils to get bored. It gave a good introduction to structures, giving the pupils confidence to try out their ideas. I liked the open-endedness of the task."



A NOBEL DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

LEBP, at the invitation of Dr Jenny Faulkner, North West Regional Co-ordinator for Aim Higher Chemistry Next Generation, was asked to organise a "Chemistry at Work" event for Lancashire high schools on 17 June 2008.

This event was a one-off, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Prize for chemistry to professor Ernest Rutherford, for his work into the nature of the alpha particle. His work led to the professor being known as the father of the nuclear industry.

"This is fab stuff!"

180 pupils from 12 schools took part in practical workshops that included a wide range of chemical sciences from the university, Royal Navy and industry.

The workshops included pupils putting together a jigsaw of molecular structures as a means to show how various drugs and medicines are designed to combat disease.

Pupils detected flaws and cracks in aircraft engine parts by using dye penetrants that glowed in the dark, an important skill to maintain aircraft safety. Students were introduced to the use of computers for converting fats and oils to environmentally friendly bio diesel for use in motor vehicles. Other workshops included forensic science investigation, wind tunnel design, chemicals and irritants in cleaning fluids, steel making and chemical engineering. They were also introduced to Smartwater, a secret chemical involving fluorescent dyes and DNA structure, which assists in criminal detection.

Pupils commented throughout the day, "I am glad

I came." "Can I come again?" "This is fab stuff."

One teacher observed that "although it was an early start this morning it has been a worthwhile and exciting day"

Two further highlights of the day included a practical workshop in the original Rutherford research laboratory involving a discussion on nuclear power and its electrical elements followed by a tour of Manchester University.

The day ended with Professor David Collison giving an exciting, spell binding lecture for everyone, which had the students in fits of screams and laughter, whilst performing countless bangs, flashes and chemical tricks involving balloons, flowers, fruit, hosepipes and various mysterious chemical powders that produced many different colours, at varying degrees of light intensity.

As the students left the lecture theatre to go back home there was still a lingering buzz from them as they left.



Another successful year of Work Experience for Broadfield Students

The following students would like to take the opportunity to thank the identified employers

Students Gain Further AQA Award

Key Stage 4 students from a number of high schools across Lancashire have spent the last few months working towards an AQA award providing additional work related learning experience.

LEBP have delivered a number of interactive workshops covering topics such as rights and responsibilities at work, health and safety in the workplace, work related finance and

applying for work or learning opportunities including CV preparation. The students also had the chance to look in more detail at a particular workplace or business and carried out research to produce a case study. As part of the award the students also learnt how to develop a personal action plan, to assist them with their personal and professional development in their future studies and work.

STEP-ing Ahead!

Three Year 11 students from Northcliffe School in Great Harwood have successfully completed their extended work placements through the Student Transition to Employment Placement programme (STEP) organised by LEBP.

The students have been working in industry for one day per week for the last academic year and have been recognised for their outstanding achievement and personal development.

Natalie Walker has been working at Wellfield and Henley House Residential Home for the elderly as a kitchen assistant and has really enjoyed her time learning about the catering side of the business. Natalie hopes to go onto Blackburn College to study catering further.

Every Monday, **Kayleigh Fletcher** has been going to St Wulstans RC Primary School in Great Harwood to support the staff as a playgroup assistant. The experience of working with children at the school has encouraged Kayleigh to study further at Accrington and Rossendale College on a Health and Social Care course.

Addison Court Nursing Home in Accrington have been especially pleased to have been working with student **John Duxbury**. John has been working as a care assistant and has established himself well with the staff and residents.

"All of the employers have commented on how well the students have performed and developed"



LEBP Employer Liaison Officer, Maureen Rendell, said "This is the first year we have had an opportunity to work with Northcliffe and we are really pleased how successful it has been for these three students. All of the employers have commented on how well the students have performed and developed, they have had very good reports all round".

LEBP has successfully organised extended work placements across Lancashire for the past eight years, and so for further information or to see how you can get involved contact the STEP team on (01254) 584059. Special thanks go to all of the employers already involved in the programme, especially those mentioned above. **Pictured are John, Natalie and Kayleigh.**



Tia Lord - Mitton Hall Boarding Kennels



Toni Ward - Spring Hill House Nursing Home



Christopher Howe - KCL Trucks & Trailers



Daniel Burrows - Accrington & Rossendale College, Painting & Decorating



Aiden Horrocks - Water School



Jordan Tolley - Accrington Stanley Football Club



Lorne Rodgers - Pampered Pets



Katy Bottrell - Woodlands Nursing Home



Aaron Booth - Prosperity Recycling



Rebecca Harrison - LEBP



Michaela Heap - Bacup Surestart



Rehana Ullah - Childsplay Play Group



Kurt Parker - Jigsaw Pantry

★ Both LEBP and the Schoolwould like to take the opportunity to thank the identified employers.

Student: **Rozanne Van Tonder**
Employer: **Clayton Homes**

"Rozanne has proven to be a valuable asset to the business, during her time with the company. With a 'can do' attitude and a ready smile, it has been a pleasure working with her. I feel that whatever path Rozanne chooses to take she will excel in. I believe she has all the tools required to be a valued member of staff to a business"

Student: **Jade Osbaldeston**
Employer: **Childs Play, Accrington**

"It was a pleasure having Jade at Childs Play for work experience. She interacted with both adults and children and soon became part of our team.

Jade is a very confident young lady, she should be proud of herself, she did a truly excellent job during her work experience. I wish Jade good luck and every success in her chosen career. Well done Jade."

Student: **Megan Bibby**
Employer: **White Ash School**

"Megan's worked very hard whilst at White Ash. Whilst many of the children in class have complex medical needs, this hasn't phased Megan and she has built good relationships with both pupils and staff. She has demonstrated both enthusiasm and initiative, working not only in class 1, but in upper school as well."

Student: **Phabian Ladeji**
Employer: **Asda stores Ltd, Accrington**

"Phabian has been the very best work experience we have had in this store. He is polite, trustworthy, punctual, uses his initiative and hard working, I wish there were more like him"

Student: **Jordan Reddaway**
Employer: **Jigsaw Pantry**

"Jordan has been excellent on placement. Jordan arrived early every day and always had a smart and tidy appearance. Jordan worked excellently in the team. I was more than impressed with Jordan's contribution with Jigsaw"



★ The pupils of Hollins Technology College

"The very best work experience we have had in this store"

Quote from employer **Asda stores Ltd, Accrington**

Student: **Shaun Goddard**
Employer: **IPEC Furniture Ltd**

"I can honestly say it was an absolute pleasure having Shaun with us for 2 weeks, he never once complained about anything we gave him to do, no matter how boring or monotonous. He is a credit to his school and himself."

As a result Shaun has now agreed to join the company to undertake a more formal training programme which will allow him to evidence his employability skills.

Student: **Jessica Page**
Employer: **Mark One, Accrington**

"I can honestly say that Jess has been the best pupil to ever do work experience at our store! Her work was done to a high standard at all times and we will all miss her! Excellent!"

Student: **Jessica Lynch** Employer: **Rising Bridge Post Office**
"Jessica is a very confident girl, who is always willing to help and learn different skills. Jessica has been a pleasure to have working for me and I would consider her anytime in the future for part time work at weekends. Well done Jessica, excellent"

Student: **Zara Akhtar** Employer: **Wilkinson Hindle**

"We recently accommodated Zara Akhtar as part of her work experience. Wilkinson Hindle are a division of Cummins Mellor Recruitment and Zara worked in both parts of the company.

Today we received a letter of thanks from her. Whether she wrote this off her own initiative or is instructed to do so by you, nevertheless, it is always pleasurable to receive such notification

from students. A thank you goes along way these days!

I hope Zara receives the grades she is seeking come extra time and that we are able to assist with students of her calibre in the future."

Student: **Luke McSorley**
Employer: **Tinker Brook Garage**

"We at Tinker Brook Garage Ltd wish to thank Luke McSorley for completing his work experience, he was enthusiastic very good attitude worked and fitted in with everybody, completed everything he was asked to do without hesitation, only needed showing once and could complete the task. We wish him well in whatever he decides to do."

Student: **Katie Cheetham** Employer: **J A & G Sutcliffe Ltd**

"An excellent all round effort by Katie who gained much confidence during her time with us. She applied herself to each task with intelligence, always polite, willing with a quiet confidence. I would have no hesitation in recommending her as a future employee"

Student: **Bethany Duckett**
Employer: **Beauty Emporium**

"Bethany has worked excellently through her work experience. She has shown very good learning skills and good team work and relationship with all members of staff."

Student: **Junayed Miah**
Employer: **Springhill House Nursing Home**

"Junayed is a charming person, who fitted well into the team. He was always polite and most pleasant, and worked well with the team. I believe he enjoyed his time with us."

Hollins Technology College is among the best in the country - and that's official!!

The success of these students is also reflected in the overall success of the school as The Hollins Technology College has achieved joint 29th place in the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust list of top 56 schools.

The school has also been named as one of the UK's most improved schools in 2006.

Headteacher Mark Jackson (pictured above) confirms "All of this has been achieved as a result of hard work throughout the school. I am extremely proud of all their achievements and would like to thank everyone who has supported the school. The school is now in a position to apply for a second specialism."

Lancashire Links

Wave Power Challenge

At the beginning of July, three Lancashire schools are taking part in a 'Wave Power Challenge' event at Lancaster University's Engineering Department. The schools, Ribblesdale High School Carr Hill High School and Hodgson High School will each put forward four teams to compete in the challenge.

Lancaster University has visited each school to give them an overview of renewable energy and hydroelectricity and set them a design challenge. The teams are currently designing a 'float' to meet this design brief and will then travel to Lancaster University to build their design, using materials provided by the University. In July each school will attend the University on a different day and will compete against the other teams from their own school to decide a winner.

On Friday July 11th the winning teams from each school will return to Lancaster to compete in the grand final.

Good luck to all those taking part and we will have more details on the winning designs and teams in the next issue!

Art in the Heart of the Community

GCSE Art students from Baines, Bispham, Cardinal Allen and St Aidan's were celebrating their success recently at an award ceremony at Hounds Hill shopping Centre Blackpool. The students all took part in a competition hosted by LEBP, Hounds Hill shopping Centre and Modus Developments as part of their Community Heart Project.

All the work was part of the Applied GCSE Art exam in which the students were given a brief and asked to submit art work which represented their

impressions of Blackpool. The winning entries will all become a permanent feature when the extended and refurbished centre is officially opened in September 2008, with the pieces being displayed in the stairwells and Pier Restaurant. Due to the success and continued interest created by this competition, Modus, Hounds Hill and LEBP are arranging for the competition to be extended to all schools throughout Lancashire. **For more information please contact Lyndsey Clarke on 01254 584082.**



Winner
Leah Curtis, St Aidans



Runner up
Georgia Noble, Baines



Runner up
Lois Buckley, Bispham



Runner up
Leah Earnshaw, Cardinal Allen



Runner up
Samantha Dugdale, St Aidans



Best Team Work
Cardinal Allen

Your Contribution

We would love to include your news in forthcoming editions of this newsletter, which is published quarterly and distributed to schools and businesses in the area. Don't miss this opportunity to get your message across to other schools and employers.

To submit your story or for further details of our programmes, please contact:
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