



## Improving employability

How **local businesses** can work with schools and colleges to improve young people's employability skills

*Why should I take an interest in young people's education?*

**Opportunity to:** investigate local potential recruits, e.g. through apprenticeships; shape employability skills; pass on enthusiasm for my sector; develop tomorrow's workforce; influence teaching to make it relevant to the local economy.

*What am I going to get out of the relationship?*

**Opportunity to:** meet potential apprentices; get involved in the local community; be promoted in the school e.g. logos on the website or around the school; benefit from better-informed recruits.

*What different ways are there to get involved?*

**You could:** take part in a careers education activity for students; support a course project or mock interviews; host workplace visits for teachers and students, work experience or teacher placements; advise on the curriculum; become a school governor.

*How much time will this take?*

**It's up to you:** the commitment could be one hour a week, a month, a year. Your choice! Advance planning is recommended — schools and colleges work to different schedules than business.

*How do I make it happen?*

**Contact:** your local school or college, or Teachers in Industry; identify your key contact and use these five questions to guide an initial discussion.



## Improving employability

How ***schools and colleges*** can work with local businesses to improve young people's employability skills

*What will our young people gain?*

Improved employability skills; access to and greater awareness of job opportunities, especially with SMEs (Small to Medium Enterprise); opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships; smoother transition to employment; better careers information; improved student commitment to their studies.

*What will our school/college gain?*

More outward focus; greater awareness of local job opportunities; fulfillment of careers guidance duty; better understanding of real workplace skills.

*How can employers get involved?*

In many ways; as a BoT member; providing more relevant project work; workplace visits; work experience; student mentoring; career talks; teacher placements; mock interviews; supporting employability activities; building relationships with local schools.

*How much time will this take?*

Time needed will vary; but it is important to agree timescales and aim to build long-term relationships. Advance planning is recommended — businesses are driven by different schedules to schools and education.

*How do I make it happen?*

**Contact:** your local business association, consider parent and/or BoT business networks; identify your key contact and use these five questions to guide an initial discussion.

Acknowledging the work of the *National Foundation Educational Research, South East Strategic Leaders, London Enterprise Panel and London Councils*: [www.nfer.ac.uk/employability](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/employability)