



School Engagement Opportunities for Businesses 2025/2026

education
business partnership

Who we are

We are a not-for profit company whose mission is:

To unite education and business to inspire and equip our future workforce for tomorrow's workplace

For 30 years,

we have been designing and delivering engaging ways for employers and young people to come together and we know what works.

What we do

We deliver education, personal development sessions, careers fairs and work experience to students aged 5-18.

We work with businesses to create and deliver high impact activities in primary and secondary schools and colleges to:



Inspire

Educate

Develop Skills

Raise Aspirations

Our Reach/Impact

Based in West Berkshire we work in Swindon, Berkshire, Wokingham, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire.

Each year we work with almost 20,000 young people to deliver a wide range of **initiatives designed to build confidence, raise aspirations and help them to successfully prepare to enter the world of work.**

We work in partnership with around 900 businesses whose involvement with our activities often supports their own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) goals.



Why partner with us?

In a rapidly changing global economy, we believe it is essential for business and education to work together to prepare young people for a changing world of work. **We recognise the importance of building long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with our corporate partners from across many different sectors so that together we can make a sustainable positive impact for the young people who need it most.**

Evidence shows multiple benefits of school engagement to business and we can provide you with a proven, hassle-free route to achieving this, whether you are looking for volunteering opportunities for your staff to meet CSR targets or provide development opportunities or are looking to work with us to develop a programme to meet your own company's specific objectives.

Did you know?

Nearly nine in ten (89%) business professionals who volunteer their time in schools and colleges say business involvement in education is a good way to close skills gaps.



84% say business engagement with education is a good way of improving the diversity of the workforce (British Chambers of Commerce recruitment report August 2023)

83% say that it is helping develop new talent pipelines with 86% saying it is encouraging young people to take up careers in their sector (Careers and Enterprise Company Report 8 Nov 2023)



Quotes and Testimonials:



“As businesses look to tackle skills shortages and diversify their work force, there is real momentum behind school outreach work. A large and increasing number of employers are forging relationships directly with schools and colleges. And this outreach is increasingly leading to intake.

“We can say with confidence that when employers engage with schools with purpose – getting involved early – the work makes a difference to young people and delivers business benefits.

“Businesses say working with the education sector is helping them develop talent pipelines, close skills gaps, increase diversity, and attract job and apprenticeship applicants.

“This work matters. Young people can be inspired about their future and employers can access and even shape their future workforce.”

Oli de Botton, Chief Executive of the Careers & Enterprise Company



“Westcoast love supporting schools in the Thames Valley, and beyond, extolling the virtues of working in the IT industry and the many roles that this can encompass. The EPB are a wonderful facilitator of such interactions from interview practice to business competitions allowing Westcoast to show what we do best to future generations of local school pupils. We are proud to be part of such a great initiative and to support the EPB so fully. I would encourage other local businesses to do the same.”

Alex Tatham, Executive Director, Westcoast Ltd

“Reflecting on my twenty years of experience as a Secondary Headteacher and the successful pathways now being followed by so many former students, the positive impact of the school’s long-term engagement with EBP programmes on those young people’s futures cannot be under-estimated. Participation undoubtedly broadened horizons and contributed to the development skills and personal qualities that have prepared them for fulfilling roles in an ever-changing world of work.”

**Derek Peaple,
Headteacher at Park House School, Newbury from Jan 2003-Aug 2020**



How to get involved

There are different ways to get involved, depending on your time, your objectives and your budget.

We are always very happy to work with you, so if you are interested in something not listed below, please do get in touch to discuss.

Become a volunteer!

It's a great way to share your skills with young people aged 7–18 and help prepare them for the world of work.

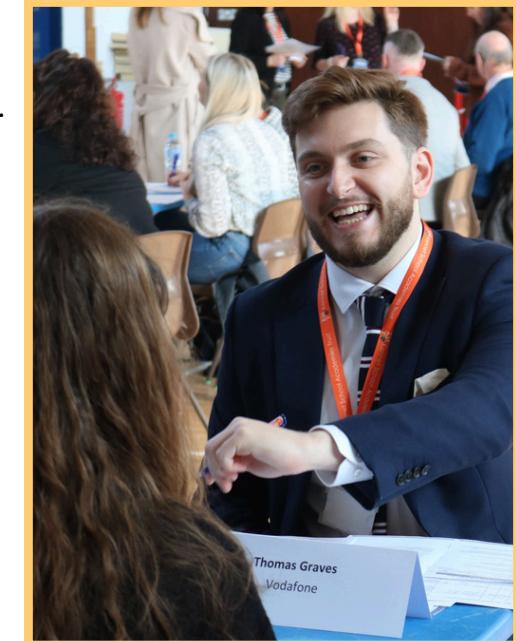
We have multiple opportunities to volunteer from September to July, across the whole of the Thames Valley.

There is no minimum time requirement, or ongoing commitment and it is totally free!

Anyone, at any level in your organisation can do it, there is no need for any specific experience as full training will be given on the day.

You will not be left alone with students at any time and will always have the full support of both EBP and school staff.

It's also an excellent way to learn more about EBP and the schools and students we support.



Benefits:

- Meet CSR objectives by providing volunteering hours
- Support your local community to give something back and help improve the life chances of our future generation
- Increase motivation in own role
- Pick an event in an area and a date to suit you from a list of varied options
- Share your skills and bridge skills gaps in your industry
- CPD (continuing professional development) opportunities to help you or your team develop communication, presentation and leadership skills as well as building confidence. Also provides a safe environment for more junior team members to experience interviewing and mentoring.

Examples of workshops you can get involved with:

Self-development workshops

Early intervention and works directly with young people aged 11 to 19 to improve confidence, resilience, self-awareness, communication and taking responsible risks to aid progression and personal development – bridging vital gaps within early careers.

Sector insight

Bringing businesses together from all industries to inspire young people to work in their sector through hands-on interactive activities that encourage young people to engage with businesses. These events are a great way for students to learn about career options in their local areas from a diverse range of businesses.



Interview Preparation

This workshop helps students to practice interview techniques and benefit from hints and tips about preparing examples and answers. The content helps students to understand the importance of body language and dress code and covers face-to-face and video interviews. We also offer Mock Interview sessions in addition to put the skills learnt into practice.

Enterprise workshops

EBP-led enterprise programmes provide opportunities for young people to develop essential skills, attitudes and an enterprising mindset which not only enriches their academic learning, but also provides a strong foundation for the future.

Hosting a Work Experience Student

We have multiple opportunities for businesses to host students on work experience (minimum age 14).

Hosting a student provides many benefits for both the employer and the student.

All you need is someone who will take responsibility for supervising the student and up-to-date employers and public liability insurance.

EBP manage the whole process, matching you with a suitable student and completing all pre-placement health and safety checks, as well as remaining on hand throughout the placement to resolve any queries.



Why work experience?

YEUK's Youth Voice Census 2023 established that a lack of work experience is the biggest barrier faced by young people not in work, yet 2/3 of children leave school with no work experience.
(Speakers for Schools, Youth Voice Census Sept 23)

Currently, most are navigating the journey to the world of work, unsure about the skills valued by employers and the route to gaining those skills.

Students who complete work experience on average will raise their future earnings by over £1088 per year and attending work experience reduces the chance of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) from 11% to 7%.

Partnership opportunities and programme sponsorship

When you partner with EBP, we can work with you, either to develop your own programme to meet your own specific objectives, or to deliver one or more of our existing workshops on your behalf.

We can engage your staff with targeted volunteering and professional development opportunities if required. Funding opportunities start from as little as £525.



Benefits of partnering with EBP:

- Dedicated account manager providing full project management, school liaison and event facilitation
- Volunteer opportunities to meet your staff's time commitments, whilst raising morale and passion for our partnership
- Volunteering opportunities to support employee career progression and development of skillsets used in the workplace
- Opportunities to raise your brand's profile through our audience and with the workforce of the future, including promotion on our social media channels and website
- Opportunities to engage your customers and clients through our work
- Full evaluation report to demonstrate the impact your business is having on young people across the local area
- Choose from one of our existing programmes, or work with our experienced team to develop a new programme to meet your own objectives. We can provide hands on support and advice as to what works best, and work to a specific budget if needed.

Become an EBP Sponsor

This is ideal if you would like to support us but are short on resource and time.

We have options of sponsorship that do not involve any outlay of time and resource and would enable you to support young people locally and promote your business name.

All sponsors will be promoted on our website and social media channels, as well as receiving invitations to our key events. We can accept either one off lump sums or regular ongoing payments.



Did you know?

Charitable donations allow companies to build a stronger relationship with customers and even gain new ones. 56% of people are more inclined to buy products or services from a business that donates to charitable causes*.

(Charities Aid Foundation)

You can claim tax relief by deducting the value of your donations from your total business profits before you pay tax.
(gov.uk)

What now?

If you would like to get involved or find out more on any element of the opportunities listed above, including a full list of upcoming events, please contact:

Volunteering: Julie Cageao, juliec@ebp.org.uk & Paul Rose, paulr@ebp.org.uk, 01635 279277

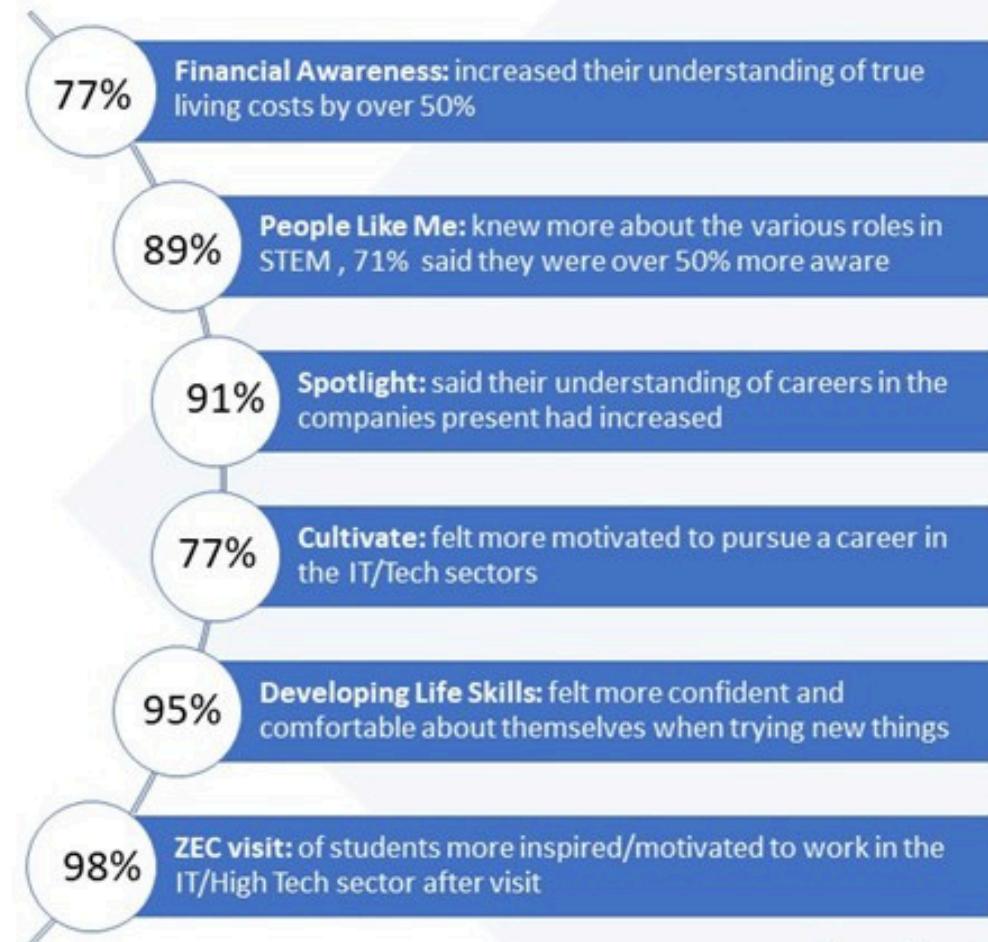
Work Experience: Julia Hallam, juliah@ebp.org.uk, 01635 279246

Sponsorship and Funding: Kate Barrow, kateb@ebp.org.uk, 01635 279271

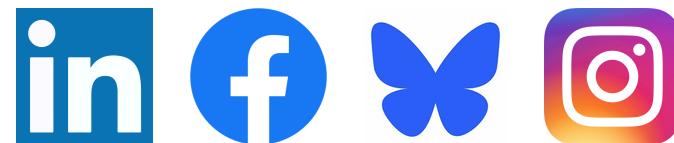
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Key impact data from all programmes 2022/2023



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