

# ATTACKS CLUBS



Special clubs run by Education Business Connections since the late 1990s have seen scores of young people becoming responsible, mature, productive members of society after taking the opportunities and responding to the challenges they experience in those clubs. These young people have successfully developed their key employability skills, gained qualifications and practically demonstrated the value of both work related learning and enterprise education offered by EBC staff.

ATTACKS Clubs (Access To Training and Alternative Curriculums with Key Skills) have been developed to build upon the success of these special clubs, whilst recognising schools' needs to ensure the most vulnerable pupils they care for secure appropriate, recognisable qualifications.

Young people who are at risk of either being excluded from schools or who are lacking in social skills, and thereby under achieving, are recruited to a school's ATTACKS Club towards the end of Year 9. The clubs are run, in school, by specially trained Club Advisers from the EBC team. Over a period of up to two years these advisers get to know their club members 'inside out' and use every technique and learning opportunity possible to help the young people achieve to their full potential.

The key to the success of ATTACKS Clubs is the emphasis on members taking responsibility for running their club and planning their activities, which enables them to build up a portfolio of evidence used to secure them appropriate nationally recognised qualifications - which are recordable on the annually published school performance league tables.

These accredited qualifications are:

- ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) Certificate of Personal Effectiveness award (Level 1 or Level 2).
- ASDAN Bronze Award.
- ASDAN Silver Award.
- ASDAN Wider Key Skills.
- COPE.

Those completing the programme are challenged to complete a comprehensive portfolio of work that demonstrates their achievements in:

- Key skills
- Application of number
- Communication
- Information technology
- Problem solving
- Working with others
- Improving their own learning

EBC's ATTACKS Club advisers guide the pupils through their portfolio building whilst developing their key employability skills on a week in, week out, basis.

Club members are able to benefit from one-to-one support whilst they are re-engaged in learning and encouraged to develop themselves as individuals and as young people approaching adulthood and positively tackle the key decisions they face. As they approach the end of Year 11 ATTACKS Club leaders support club members in researching, reviewing and identifying their post-16 options - whether it be further education, training or employment.

Also instilled into the pupils is respect - respect for themselves, for others, for their school and for their community.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Trained Club Advisers to run the clubs.
- Full programme management of ATTACKS Clubs in schools.
- Weekly ATTACKS Clubs in schools.
- All learning materials required to meet both COPE and ASDAN requirements.
- Arrangement of special off-site events, for example residentials.
- Support and advice for schools' identified Link Teacher.
- Support for club members in achieving special 'community project' aspects of their portfolio building.
- Full monitoring and evaluation service.

**'BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH A CREATIVE APPROACH TO CURRICULUM NEEDS AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS'**