

# ATTENDANCE CONFERENCES

EBC's Attendance Conferences are a range of bespoke activities originally designed in partnership with a single Tyne and Wear secondary school which had identified the need to encourage consistent, regular and prompt attendance in its pupils. The success of the programme in assisting the school in reducing its truancy rates by several percentage points has led to the programme now being offered to all schools.

EBC originally worked with its partner school to develop its Attendance Conferences programme which instilled the importance of good attendance and also acted as a motivational tool for ongoing monitoring and development work by school staff throughout the school year.

Attendance Conferences are also designed to recognise excellent attendance in pupils through publicly heralding those individuals' achievements.... and those pupils not present at the event hear how they 'missed out' on an exciting day from their peers who were there!

Each Attendance Conference lasts a full day with around 100 pupils attending in the morning and another 100 in the afternoon. They can be run for pupils in Years 7, 8 or 9.

The format can be customised to meet individual school needs, issues and priorities but all are designed to reinforce three important messages in pupils as they either enter secondary education or approach the vital 'examination' years.

The three key messages are:

- Turn up for school each day.
- Turn up on time each day.
- Every school day counts.

Business supporters facilitate groups of pupils as they work through the activity programme and serve to reinforce the value and importance placed on consistent good attendance from their workforces.

Schools can either integrate the programme into a whole year campaign within school or use it as a motivational 'one off' to inspire their pupils. The programme can be customised to reinforce any compacts or contracts pupils are required to sign in connection with their attendance.

Always included in the programme are:

- Team building activities – with the emphasis on the impact of missing team members.
- Motivational speakers.
- A mini-enterprise.
- A visit by a celebrity.
- Prizes for good school attendees.
- Activities designed to develop both entrepreneurial and employability skills.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Recruitment of businesses to deliver activities.
- Customised programme of activities to match individual school needs
- Recruitment of schools to take part in the event.
- Full event organisation, including arrangements for venues, transport, and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Full post-event evaluation.