

Media Release

January 31, 2007

Balloon modelling gives new twist to learning

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Wednesday, February 7, 2007, between 10am and noon or 1.30pm and 2.30pm
Thursday, February 8, 2007, between 10am and noon or 1.30pm and 2.30pm

CHILDREN are getting a head start in the world of work by working with businesses from across the region. Youngsters from several Sunderland primary schools are taking part in Basic Skills events organised by city-based charity Education Business Connections Ltd (EBC).

By taking part in a variety of activities – from balloon modelling to basic first aid tips – the primary school children will learn a range of new skills. They will also enhance important key skills such as literacy, numeracy and communication skills..

The schools taking part include: Castletown Primary School, Bexhill Primary School, Town End Primary School and Hylton Castle Primary School. The events will be held over two days – February 7 and February 8, 2007 – each day hosting two schools. There will be around 100 pupils at each event.

Event organiser Sarah Nicklin, Business Liaison Officer with EBC, said: “These events always give the students a great opportunity to learn new skills while having a good time! We are delighted to be working with these schools, and hope this will be the first of many events we deliver in partnership with them.”

The businesses supporting the events include: Ian Lowe Children’s Entertainer, Gala Bingo, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Health and Safety Executive, St John Ambulance, Nissan, Lloyds TSB, Asda Washington, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Mott Macdonald, Every School Day Counts, North East Roofing Training Group, National Trust – Gibside and National Glass Centre.

Education Business Connections was formed eight years ago to support closer working between schools and businesses in Sunderland. It’s success means that now the team delivers innovative educational programmes to children across Tyne and Wear. Programmes are funded from a variety of sources, including the European Social Fund, but EBC’s ongoing development is supported by Futurebuilders (for more details go to www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk).

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