

# Media Release

October 16 2007

## LOCAL BUSINESS GIVE PORTLAND A HELPING HAND

### Photo Opportunity: 10.30am – 12noon at Portland School Sunderland

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October between 9am and 3.00pm Sainsburys Washington along with other local companies will be attending a Workability Event run by Education Business Connections at Portland School in Sunderland.

Workability is being funded by The Sunderland Partnership through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

Sarah Nicklin, Business Liaison Officer from EBC said “Our overall aim is to give young people with a range of disabilities and barriers to learning a raised awareness of, and confidence in, their capacity to enter the jobs market (even if this is in a ‘sheltered’ form). Every Workability event is unique – with activities carefully matched with pupils’ abilities and needs. The programme provides pupils with an opportunity to engage with businesses in an informal setting and help them identify the skills they have to offer that can help them enter the world of work.”

Activities include: Jewellery Design, making bird feeders and activities that will enable the students to develop numeracy, literacy, team work and communications skills. Children will also be having a little Hallowe’en fun early as Sainsburys Washington have donated 40 pumpkins.

Each of the students will be given a ‘Goody Bag’ containing ‘goodies’ donated from Northumbria Water, Walkers Snack Foods and Nestle Rowntree.

Chris Rowsby Store Manager from Sainsburys Washington said: “Sainsburys is delighted to have its colleagues support local schools with the EBC initiative, and is more than happy to donate the 40 pumpkins that will be used as part of the learning experience on the day.”

Education Business Connections was formed eight years ago to support closer working between schools and businesses in Sunderland. Its 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 from the European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and Tyne & Wear Education Business Links Organisation (TWEBLO), but EBC’s ongoing development is supported by Futurebuilders.

ENDS

For further details please contact

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