



Media Release

April 24, 2007

Raising Aspirations **Photo opportunity: Nissan Sports and Social Club** **June 27 and June 28, between 10am and noon, or 1.30pm to 2.30pm**

Students will be broadening their horizons when they seek work thanks to a special event being held over two days. Pupils from Sandhill View School are working together with local business people in order to improve their skills ready for the job market.

Raising Aspirations hopes to give students a wider view of the working world by introducing them to a range of activities involving a wide section of industries. Students will work in teams and enhance their basic skills such as literacy, numeracy and communication.

The event will involve around 200 pupils from Year 9 and they will get to grips with a host of different activities through the day. The two days have been organised by Sunderland-based Education Business Connections (EBC).

Businesses supporting the event include: Reynolds Outdoor Centre, Pendragon Partnership, Morrisons, Team Wearside, Sunderland Housing Group, b skill, the Army, Soundwaves, Extended Play, Nissan, Libraries and Information Action Zone, Into Work, Barclays Bank, McDonalds and the Royal Navy.

Business and Finance Co-ordinator for EBC Julie Kelly said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to enhance their skills in areas like literacy and teambuilding. "It also gives them a chance to work with businesses they may not know much about and try new skills."

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 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 (for more details go to www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk).

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