



Media Release

March 16, 2007

Working together to gain confidence

**Photo Opportunity: March 21 between 9.30 and 12 or 1.30pm and 2.45pm at Portland School
and March 29 between between 9.30 and 12 or 1.30pm and 2.45pm at Barbara Priestman School**

WRITING their own advertising jingle and building bird feeders are first steps on the road to success for students from two Sunderland schools. The idea behind the activities is to help build up confidence and make youngsters aware of their own potential.

Students with disabilities are being given the opportunity to find out more about the world of work with a series of events called Workability. The events are being held at Portland School and Barbara Priestman School, in Sunderland.

There will be 50 students taking part in each event. On Wednesday, March 21, business people will be visiting Portland School and on Thursday, March 29, Barbara Priestman School will play host to the businesses.

Local business people will be visiting the schools to encourage youngsters in achieving success in a range of areas. Some of the businesses involved include: Gala Bingo, Barclays, Lloyd, Morrisons, Extended Play, T- Mobile, Grace House, 2 – Touch, Chesshire – Hope and Durham Wildlife Trust.

Val Barella, Business Development Officer with EBC, said: “This is a great opportunity for pupils to experience the world of work by working with local business people to develop their skills outside the classroom environment.”

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 and Tyne & Wear Education Business Links Organisation (TWEBLO). This programme has been funded by The Sunderland Partnership through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. EBC's ongoing development is supported by Futurebuilders (for more details go to www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk).

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