



Media Release

March 2009

Polish trainers taste Wearside Enterprise Photo opportunity: Please see Notes to Editors

A project to promote an enterprise culture among school children in Sunderland is being “exported” to Poland.

A delegation from Gdansk and the Pomorskie region is visiting the city next week to see how Sunderland is promoting entrepreneurship in its schools.

The nine-strong group will be visiting Houghton Kepier School, on Tuesday, Academy 360 in Pennywell, on Wednesday and Plains Farm Primary School, on Friday.

They will be welcomed to the city on Monday by Sunderland Mayor Councillor Mary Smith.

The visit follows a recent visit to Gdansk by award winning Wearside firm, Education Business Connections Ltd – which promotes closer working relationships between schools, the community and business.

Chief Executive of Education Business Connections, Barbara McClennan, spent a week in Poland demonstrating ways of bringing schools, colleges and the local business community together to stimulate enterprise skills.

The visit to Sunderland will allow the delegation to see the project in action. The events for Academy 360 and Houghton Kepier are funded from the City Council’s Strategic Initiative Budget with the Tyne and Wear Education Business Link Organisation funding the day at Plains Farm.

Barbara McClennan said: “We have shared our approach to promoting enterprise activities and building partnerships with local businesses with our Polish partners and run training sessions for them on how to get a wide range of people involved in developing entrepreneurial skills in young people.

“Now they are coming to Sunderland to actually see it in action.”

Sunderland City Council Leader, Councillor Paul Watson, said: “A great many innovative things are happening in our schools and developing a spirit of enterprise and entrepreneurship is one of them.

“Initiatives like this are important in preparing our children and young people for the world of work in today’s global economy.

“We are delighted to welcome our Polish visitors to Sunderland and to have the opportunity to share our experiences with them.”

Notes to Editors:

The Polish visitors will also take part in a Strategic International Partnership Speed Networking event which Education Business Connections hopes will help them find similar organisations in the city and beyond to work to develop transnational links – hopefully funded through the European Union.

During their stay Education Business Connections has also lined up a number of visits to projects across the city in the hope that other Polish partnerships can be forged.

The school events have been made possible thanks to funding support from Sunderland City Council's West Area and Coalfields Committees and Tyne and Wear Education Business Links Organisation (TWEBLO).

On Tuesday March 31 around 65 Year 9 pupils from Houghton Kepier will take part in a Welcome to the World of Work event at Houghton Sports Hall thanks to funding from the city's Coalfields Area Committee and its Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

On Wednesday April 1, 80 Year 8 pupils from Pennywell's Academy 360 take part in a Skills for Work event thanks to funding from the city's West Area Committee, again through SIB funding.

On Friday April 3, 54 Year 5 and 6 pupils from Plains Farm Primary School will be developing their entrepreneurial and employability skills at a special Enterprise Day thanks to funding from one EBC's strategic partners, Tyne and Wear Education Business Partnership, which is also funding additional educational support throughout the week.

Any media wishing to cover any of the school events can contact Barbara McClennan of Iain Kay at Education Business Connections on (0191) 516 6411 or 07812 974 955 or email: info@ebcltd.org.uk

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. To find out more visit www.ebdltd.org.uk

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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