

ASK THE JUNIORS



Investing in early exposure to enterprise education and work related learning can reap significant long term benefits for young people - regardless of their age. Indeed the earlier pupils are given the opportunity to learn about the world of work, the better.

EBC's ASK the Juniors offers is an innovative programme designed to provide such learning opportunities to Key Stage 2 pupils. 'ASK' stands for Attitude, Skills and Knowledge and 'the Juniors' reflects the target age range - Year 6.

ASK the Juniors is currently funded for a number of schools by The Sunderland Partnership through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for Year 6 (Key Stage 2) primary school pupils and aims to embed an understanding of these skills into pupils' early work related learning and experience of enterprise education.

Each ASK the Juniors programme sees up to 120 primary school pupils from up to four primary schools - with the schools selected from linked feeder secondary clusters taking part. The programme has two interlinked elements.

- Classroom Enterprise - a 2 hour classroom based activity introducing pupils to notions of enterprise in an entertaining and informative way through role play and collaborative activities.
- ASK the Juniors Event Day - delivered over a full day in a large venue with pupils spending up to 30 minutes on each activity before moving onto the next. Activities are all designed to increase pupils' awareness of key employability skills and knowledge of enterprise and the event culminates in a mini-enterprise.

Each ASK the Juniors Event Day is supported by around 12 different businesses recruited and supported by EBC. Activities help to introduce pupils to key employability skills including dexterity, communication, teamwork, problem solving and task and time management skills as they work in groups, under time constraints to complete the challenging activities designed for them.

Pupils are split into teams, selected to ensure that pupils are given the extra challenge of 'working with a stranger' from another school - adding an additional challenge to the group dynamics. Each team is scored with points being awarded for teamwork, communication, application, Health and Safety, initiative and attitude. In addition to providing activities and manpower for the event, businesses usually show their support for the event through provision of prizes and large numbers of 'freebies' for the pupils to take away.

Activities during the day include:

- Body works - looking at how different parts of the body are utilised in employment such as hands, eyes, ears, etc.
- Friends Like These - based on the TV programme format this sees groups deciding who is best suited for a series of tasks such as problem solving, negotiating and leadership.
- Ticket to Enterprise - a chance for teams to run a business simulation where they draw on skills developed during the day.

The end of each event sees an 'awards ceremony' with various prizes (mainly provided by businesses) going to:

- Best team overall.
- Best girl of the day.
- Best boy of the day.
- Best overall pupil.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Pre-event Classroom Enterprise sessions
- Recruitment of businesses to deliver activities at the ASK the Juniors Event Day.
- Practical advice and guidance to companies on the development of their proposed activities at the large scale event.
- Full event organisation, including arrangements for venues, transport, and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Full post-programme evaluation.