

# FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES



Future Opportunities provides pupils with stimulating, exciting and challenging ways of experiencing for themselves some of the complex issues facing people in the working environment whilst embedding the key employability skills.

Future Opportunities puts an exciting spin, with 'street cred', on skills development covering all key skills areas.

Using popular culture themes such as TV programmes, music, dance, and pop-themed mini-enterprises Future Opportunities seeks to re-engage young people at a time when they are at risk of 'opting out' of any real progress in terms of education. These pupils need extra help, support and encouragement to cope with the often confusing myriad of choices - and potential opportunities - facing them in their approaching Year 10 and Year 11.

Future Opportunities is normally run in the Autumn/Spring term (timed to support individual schools' build up to their options selection timeframe for pupils) and give the targeted young people an extra chance to make a productive decision on their future education and career paths. The two day programme, on offer to 80 pupils at a time, can be condensed to one day if required.

The aim of the events is to give pupils a last minute boost in self-confidence, self-belief and self worth through a range of exciting activities which seek to re-engage their interest and to stimulate them into making constructive decisions about their future. In addition to 'believing in themselves' and recognising their abilities and talents, they will be equipped with extra employability skills and a greater knowledge of the opportunities that are available to them.

Using the successful, well established formula of EBC's well established large scale events portfolio pupils experience a range of fun-focussed work related activities.

Activities mirror the themes and formats of popular TV programmes such as:

- Pop Idols.
- Fame Academy.
- Who Wants to be a Millionaire.
- Friends like These.

A choice of these programmes ensures that Opportunity Knocks has the necessary 'street cred' needed to start the process of re-engagement with the target group. A strong 'fun' element - with the 'serious' skills building and self evaluation being subtly disguised - sees activities selected from:

- Rap those skills.
- Friends like these.
- Mini enterprise/ business simulation.
- Fame Academy.
- It's Sink or Swim in Business.
- I'm a Star - An 'Oscar-style' awards ceremony.

Throughout students are supported by people from the world of business, commerce and industry. These supporters will either act as advisers for individual teams, keeping them on track and providing real life insight into some of the tasks they face, or as facilitators for parts of the programme i.e. a business simulation/mini enterprise.

Future Opportunities aims to:

- Develop key employability skills and improve work readiness in students.
- Provide the young people with confidence to explore their Key Stage 4 choices.
- Provide a last-minute encouragement to the target group in the run up to the sitting of exams, etc.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Recruitment of businesses to deliver activities.
- Practical advice and guidance to business supporters on the proposed activities.
- Ensuring all activities are designed to assist in improving young people's key employability skills.
- Full event organisation including arrangements for venues, transport and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Full post-event evaluation.