

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



Opportunity Knocks is a flexible, interactive and engaging programme run over one day for Year 10 pupils and two days for Year 11 pupils, with the second day having a strong careers fair element.

Using popular culture themes such as TV programmes, music, dance, and pop-themed mini-enterprises Opportunity Knocks seeks to re-engage young people already alienated from the system, or on the fringe of society by targeting 15 and 16-year-olds who are identified as at risk of entering the NEET group with no clear post-16 routes planned.

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

Opportunity Knocks events are delivered to 80-100 young people - either one day for Year 10 pupils or two days for Year 11.

Day 1 sees activities mirroring the themes and formats of popular TV programmes such as:

- American Idol or the X Factor
- 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. Each new activity is 'announced' with contemporary chart music or TV themes.

There's a strong 'fun' element on day one - with the 'serious' skills building and self evaluation being subtly disguised. Activities are selected from:

- Rap those skills.
- Friends like these.
- Mini enterprise/ business simulation.
- Fame Academy.

Re-energised and re-motivated Year 11 students returning for day 2 to take part in a range of hands on activities including:

- Sign up now - Businesses and organisations are recruited drawn from both those known to offer opportunities to 16-year-olds in the form of training placements, post-16 education and both and full part time working.
- I'm a Star - An 'Oscar-style' awards ceremony with prizes for various categories of student 'performance'.

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.

Opportunity Knocks aims to:

- Develop key employability skills and improve work readiness in students.
- Provide the young people with confidence to explore their next career/education choices.
- Provide a relaxed, informal, non-threatening environment in which students can meet potential employers, training providers and education institutions and to discuss options open to them.
- Provide employers, training providers and education institutions the chance to reach a traditionally 'hard to reach' potential recruits.
- Provide a last-minute encouragement to the target group in the run up to the sitting of exams, etc.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Recruitment 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.

'BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH A CREATIVE APPROACH TO CURRICULUM NEEDS AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS'