

UNIVERSITY VISITS & GRADUATE FAIRS



The portfolio of programmes offered by Education Business Connections is designed to offer pupils activities that are relevant to the various stages of their academic life.

University Visits are targeted at Year 11 pupils and take place in the autumn term. The visits are designed to give a rounded perspective of higher education and what life for an undergraduate is really like from an academic, social and cultural perspective.

The visits are followed up by a special Graduate Careers Fair organised by EBC. As part of the programme pupils are asked to select their preferred career routes. Based on their selection, businesses which are known to employ new graduates are then recruited to attend the EBC Graduate Careers Fair – giving pupils the chance for one-to-one discussions with potential future employers.

Pupils then complete their final year at school with an in-depth understanding of what life at university can be like and companies recruiting graduates – better equipping them for their future education choices.

This understanding helps the young people to:

- Make more informed decisions about their future education routes.
- See university study as a real option open to them.
- Dispel some of their concerns about leaving home for the first time.
- Gain a full insight into life at university – both academically and socially.
- Experience life on campus.
- Explore the wide range of courses on offer at universities.
- Meet existing university students and discuss common interests.

The main aim of this programme is to encourage pupils to recognise that university education is an achievable and reasonable goal for them to set themselves, especially those young people who have no previous family history of higher education to refer to.

Large numbers of pupils from local secondary schools travel to a university campus where they attend mock lectures and seminars, tour facilities, take part in practical activities and are challenged to put together presentations which reflect on their learning and experiences during the programme. They also enjoy a taster of social life at university with events on offer including karaoke and a disco.

University Visits take place at a campus far enough away from home to justify an overnight stay for the pupils – giving them a feel for what life in a hall of residence will be like.

In the past Education Business Connections has paired up with both York and Sheffield Universities to deliver this programme and in recent years a now firmly developed successful partnership has seen Lancaster University as the firm favourite with pupils and schools alike.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Recruitment of schools to take part in the event.
- Recruitment of businesses for a special Graduate Careers Fair.
- Selection and booking of a suitable campus university.
- Full liaison with the selected university to develop varied programme of activities.
- Full event organisation, including arrangements for venues, transport, and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Staff presence to assist school staff throughout the visits.
- Full post-event evaluation.

‘**BUILDING CONFIDENCE** IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH A **CREATIVE APPROACH**
TO CURRICULUM NEEDS AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS’