

# Visit our Schools

18 - 22 OCTOBER 2010

## **Information for participants**

Visit our Schools is an initiative of the Education and Employers Taskforce, the independent charity created in 2009 to ensure that every school and college has an effective relationship with employers. The Taskforce brings together the leading representative organisations from the world of education and employment to inspire and enable greater and more effective partnership working.

The purpose of Visit our Schools week is to celebrate partnership working, highlighting its benefits, while enabling hundreds of schools and colleges to invite local employers to visit them and take part in a practical discussion about partnership working.

## **The main facts:**

Participation in Visit our Schools week is completely free to schools and colleges.

Registering online takes a couple of minutes and only requires you to commit 1 or 2 hours during Visit our Schools week 18 – 22 October 2010.

## **Schools and colleges**

Participation in the Visit our Schools week is open to all maintained English schools and colleges providing education to young people aged 5 to 19, including special schools, primary schools, secondary schools, academies, sixth form colleges and further education colleges. By registering on the Visit our Schools website, schools and colleges are agreeing to host a two hour visit over the week of 18-22 October.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In Leicester and Leicestershire, due to a clash with half-term holidays, Visit our Schools week will take place over the week of 11-15 October 2010.

## **Timeline – what will happen and when**

During the registration process, schools and colleges will be prompted to offer preferred dates and time for the visit. Any provisional dates can be changed later.

During the week of 6 September, schools and colleges will be approached, in light of employer interest, to confirm preferred dates and times for visits. Over the next few weeks, interested employers will be offered a range of opportunities to visit schools and colleges locally. Guidance for visits, including a draft meeting agenda, will be sent out during the week commencing 4 October. Expected employer visitors will be confirmed at the start of the week commencing 11 October.

## **Employers**

Participation in Visit our Schools week is open to all employers operating in England. Participation is encouraged from the leaders of organisations of all sizes and all business areas, from the private, public and third sectors. As the aim of Visit our Schools week is to help initiate, expand and sustain new relationships over time, participation is strongly encouraged from Chairs, CEOs, Managing Directors, Board members, heads of Human Resources and Corporate Responsibility. Visit our Schools week has been specifically designed to make it easy for these busy decision-makers to plan ahead and receive a personal briefing from school and college leaders about their priorities for partnership working. Many employers already work with schools and colleges and may want to arrange a visit to an educational institution with which they have an existing relationship and encourage members of their networks to come along and find out more. Such actions would be very much in keeping with the spirit of Visit our Schools week and would be very welcome.

## **Timeline – what will happen and when**

At registration, employers will be prompted for preferred dates and times for their visit. During September, in light of school and college interest, employers will be circulated with options for visits. Confirmed visit details, and guidance for visits, including a draft meeting agenda, will be sent out during the week commencing 4 October. By taking part in Visit our Schools week, participating employers are not making any commitment to engage in future partnership working. They will just find out more about what partnership working could involve. Participation in Visit our Schools week is completely free to employers.

## **Who will arrange the visit?**

Visits will primarily be arranged by the Taskforce's volunteer local partners drawn from the membership of the Institute of Education Business Excellence ([www.iebe.org.uk](http://www.iebe.org.uk)). The IEBE is the professional association for individuals and organisations working to encourage and enable partnership working between schools/colleges and employers. Many IEBE members

are Education Business Partnership Organisations and experienced in brokering such relationships. In selecting local partners, preference has been given to those organisations which are full holders of, or working towards, the Award for Education Business Excellence. Where local partners have helped to arrange visits, they will have the option of joining visits. This will be an opportunity for participants to learn about the help which they can provide to help employers and schools and colleges work well together.

In a small number of areas, visits will be arranged directly by a small team based in the Taskforce's London office.

### **What happens during a visit?**

Participants can expect visits to last for two hours. Visits will typically consist of:

- A practical and open discussion between the head teacher / college principal and employer(s) to discuss the school or college's main objectives for employer partnerships, drawing primarily on the National Framework of priority activities (see below)
- An opportunity for teaching staff and young people who have benefited from, or who have interest in, education experiences which engage employers
- A tour of the school or college which might include participation in an appropriate class – for example, taking part in a Q & A in a Diploma teaching session or listening to a primary school child read
- Discuss and agree any next steps

Participants will receive guidance, highlighting the National Framework of activities in advance of the visit. Visits will provide opportunity to capture media interest in partnership working between education and employers. If you would be interested in getting involved in media initiatives, email: [info@educationandemployers.org](mailto:info@educationandemployers.org). After registration, participants will receive regular national newsletters providing briefs on the campaign and specific opportunities for showcasing the most interesting and exciting partnership working.

### **The National Framework of priority activities**

One of the first acts of the Education and Employers Taskforce was to agree a set of key activities for partnership working to make it easier for employers, schools and colleges to focus energies on a shared list of priorities. This National Framework has been endorsed by the members of the Taskforce Partnership Board which includes:

- *from the world of education:* the Association of Colleges, the Association of School and College Leaders, National Association of Head Teachers, the NASUWT, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

- *from the world of employment*: the British Chambers of Commerce, the CBI, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Institute of Directors, the TUC, and Business in the Community

The National Framework is arranged around three themes:

***Leadership and Governance, including:***

Governors  
CPD for teachers  
Expert help for schools

***Supporting the curriculum, including:***

Diplomas  
Literacy  
Numeracy  
STEM subjects  
Modern Foreign Languages  
Learning materials

***Enterprise and employability, including:***

Work experience  
Mentoring  
Workplace visits  
Classroom presentations  
Enterprise and employability activities  
Careers information and advice  
Young Apprenticeships  
Projects

The Taskforce partners feel strongly that employer engagement in education is relevant across the curriculum and across all age groups of young people, including both high fliers and those who struggle to keep up.

For more information about the National Framework activities, visit:

The Teachers' Guide to working with Employers

[www.teachers-guide.org](http://www.teachers-guide.org)

The Employers' Guide to working with Schools and Colleges

[www.employers-guide.org](http://www.employers-guide.org)

**After the visit**

Visit our Schools week has deliberately been timed for the first half-term of the new school year to allow as much scope as possible for the impact to be felt during the remainder of the

school year. The Taskforce is evaluating the week and will contact participating schools and colleges in January to see what legacies can be expected from the week. This information will help decide on whether Visit our Schools week should become an annual event.

### **Your information**

The information you supply through the registration process will only be used, unless you have indicated otherwise, to secure a successful event within Visit our Schools week. It will not be possible for participants to contact each other directly. This is because schools and employers rarely have dedicated members of staff able to deal with occasional enquiries and requests. By going through a professional third party, we will make it easier for schools to deal with interest from employers in a co-ordinated fashion and vice versa.

### **Contact the Education and Employers Taskforce**

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