

## Welcome

Welcome to Link Up, the EBP newsletter bringing you news of our school, college, employer and community links across Suffolk.

Young people are at the centre of everything we do at the EBP, so it's good to hear positive feedback when we have introduced them to employers and the world of work. Comments about a recent event include:

"It's a shame the whole school couldn't come, it was amazing and has made me think more about what I want to be when I'm older." Charlotte Mayne, year 9

"A great day because we learnt about how to get jobs and have fun whilst doing it." Josh Dyer, year 9

There's so much going on at the EBP that we can only highlight a few of the exciting projects we're working on with our partners. Please visit our website at [www.suffolkebp.co.uk](http://www.suffolkebp.co.uk) to find the latest news and sign up to receive our monthly e-Bulletin and termly newsletter. We welcome your feedback and you can also follow us on Twitter [@suffolkebp](https://twitter.com/suffolkebp)

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support in 2011 and wish you season's greetings.

**Helen Scott-Davies**  
Chief Executive

## Portfolio

Have you seen the new Suffolk Education Business Partnership portfolio for 2011-2012?

All Suffolk schools, academies and colleges have been sent a copy, and you can view it online at [www.suffolkebp.co.uk](http://www.suffolkebp.co.uk) with lots of other useful news, info and links.

## EBP forges ahead

Suffolk Education Business Partnership (EBP) is forging ahead with a host of exciting new projects linking schools, young people and employers.



Getting young people and employers together brings results

Our celebrations begin with the recent success of young students from Chantry High School, who won the National STEM Challenge 7 with their innovative 'Torch Stalker' 'phone app' to help visitors follow the Olympic flame.

EBP Chairman Adrian Williams said: "This is what the EBP is all about. It's marvellous to see our young people aiming high and winning while gaining valuable employability skills needed to succeed in the commercial world. It's just one example of how positive role models from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) industries can support young people to achieve."

The EBP is now able to deliver a full work experience service to all schools in and around Suffolk. Chief Executive Helen Scott-Davies explains: "We have big plans to develop a centralised database to meet the needs of schools, colleges and academies and to give them every opportunity to maximise their links with local employers. For the first time we can comprehensively track all our joint activity down to individual students as they

engage in different work programmes."

The saying 'be careful what you wish for' has just come true for the EBP, which is now the managing body for the 'Go with the Flow' community youth bus operating in the Suffolk Coastal area. The EBP is keen to make better use of this valuable asset, particularly during the daytime, so do get in touch with your ideas.

Helen added: "All this activity means the EBP will be starting the New Year on a high note. As the Olympics approach, look out for the Torchstalker App and be proud knowing it originated from some of Suffolk's young shining stars."

## Inside:

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## What's happening in your area?

The EBP's three area managers share experience, enthusiasm and energy when it comes to making education business links work across the county. Here's what they've been up to this term. Get in touch if you're inspired to do more in your area.



Jenni Carberry in action at the Big Conversations event near Lowestoft

### Jenni Carberry – North

Jenni is rapidly becoming the EBP's social network voice. Building on her natural passion and networking strengths, Jenni has been convincing us all of the value of Twitter - with surprising results. We are finding new partners from business and the community who are willing to volunteer their time in our activities inspiring young people. It is fast becoming our first point of call for instant feedback. Why not sign up and follow us? [@suffolkebp](#)

Jenni is also our broadcaster and is becoming a familiar voice on Ipswich Community Radio (ICR) FM, Blyth Valley Radio and BBC Radio Suffolk.

She used her networking skills to

maximum effect in the recent Question Time and Big Conversations events. She has also been busy running specific events: 'Cash in Hand' to develop financial literacy in young people; an Enterprise Day to organise a school prom, and a recent Apprentice Open Day with EDF Energy at Sizewell B.

Having taken over managing the 'Go with the Flow' community youth bus, Jenni is getting to know the project staff and working up a programme of evening events giving young people somewhere to meet in rural areas. A word of warning! Jenni is mobile and coming to a village near you .....

### Angela Edwards – South

Angela has been working closely with the NICE (North Ipswich and Coastal Estuary) and SWISS (South West Ipswich and South Suffolk) schools on a strategic approach to linking schools and employers. This will help support a wide array of activity from World of Work days in primary schools, to secondary school activities involving face-to-face mentoring, professional development opportunities, skills events and taster activities.

Events with NICE aimed at young people whose destination is unknown include taster days at Otley College and

Suffolk New College, followed up with interview skills, CV writing and one-to-one support from industry mentors.

Suffolk New College is working with Angela on a second Construction Day in 2012, following on from last year with the same cohort of students now in Year 10 being tracked for impact, outcomes and destinations. A Year 11 event will follow later in the year.

Angela is working with Chantry High School to underpin Suffolk's new Employability 4 Life Charter by developing a range of assemblies attended by business ambassadors and linked to Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) topics such as personal safety, births, deaths and marriages. So, if you know of a female undertaker or a male midwife then Angela would very much like to hear from you!

Beyond Suffolk, Angela has a hotline to the Department for Education and has been passionately defending the role of work-related learning and experience of work programmes.

### Andy Mawby - West

Andy has a strategic plan working with the Western Area schools to highlight education business links. He has organised a Question Time event in Mildenhall bringing together students and local employers, and is busy preparing for an area Careers Fair.

The Law Factor saw Great Cornard Upper School's theatre transformed into a court room with students taking the part of jurors in a mock trial to spark their interest in the legal profession, supported by Judge Peter Thompson and a team of barristers and solicitors.

Andy has been helping to develop EBP's Work Experience service across Suffolk and is working with the Western Area 14-19 Partnership to support all schools undertaking work experience. An employer awards scheme linked to the Employability 4 Life Charter (E4L) is also being developed with the partnership.

## EBP updates

The EBP is going through re-accreditation of its Young Suffolk Quality Standards to ensure we maintain the highest standards when dealing with young people.

The EBP also takes training seriously: Andy and Jenni have recently qualified as Emergency First Aiders; and Andy has gained his Manual Handling certificate.

## How can we find work?

That's one of the big questions Suffolk students got the chance to debate with employers at two highly successful 'Question Time' style events recently.

The EBP has adapted the popular TV programme as a lively way to discuss employability skills, careers, work experience and job opportunities with young people - using its wide links with local businesses, ambassadors and industry leaders.

Students quizzed employers about their future prospects in front of invited audiences of parents, fellow students and professionals at Leiston High School and Mildenhall College of Technology, and more Question Time events are planned for 2012.

At Leiston, sixth form students heard about the career journeys of employers including representatives from BT, Flagship Housing, Framlingham Technology Centre, Job Centre Plus, Magnox, Newton Commercial, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, University Campus Suffolk, Caramel Fashions, Ensors, Frontier Agirculture, Otley College and the Heritage Coastal Market Towns Initiative. The Leiston event was funded by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

### Feedback included:

*"It helped me by knowing what I need in a job or job interview and it was good advice about what they had to say."* Student

*"It's a great way for the students to develop their employability skills."* Jill Douglass, Employer Engagement Co-ordinator



*"It boosted my confidence to ask questions."* Student

Nick Boulter, a Board Member for Suffolk Coastal LSP, said:

*"Supporting the local economy to create jobs and working more closely with young people to help develop the skills and services that they need are key priorities for the LSP. At a time of rising youth unemployment, it is important to bring employers and students together to discuss the best way forward."*

At Mildenhall, a panel of young people, aged 15 to 17, took part in a debate chaired by businessman and STEM Ambassador Simon de Laat, Managing Director of Tereos UK, and attended by local employers and professionals including the British Racing School, NHS, BT, the British Army, Suffolk Police and Suffolk Fire Service.

Contact the EBP to arrange a Question Time event for your school or college.

**BEACON** east

## First port of call for engineering

Teachers, support staff and youth advisers spent a fascinating professional development day at the coast finding out about skills requirements and career options for students interested in engineering.

The Port of Felixstowe is the UK's busiest container port and Hutchison Ports (UK) Limited is eager to work more closely with schools and partners.

Organised by Beacon East and the EBP, the free event included a tour of the port and offered updates on key sectors, apprenticeship and graduate opportunities, future education activities with STEM ambassador support, and a chance to talk to young apprentices.

### Comments included:

*"Great to learn about all these opportunities...keen to develop 'employability' for our students. It was really helpful to hear what the sector is looking for."*

*"Thank you for the organising such a great day ...It was so informative and I learnt so much, I have returned to school today with a much clearer understanding of engineering as a career path."*

*"This information will be ideal for my A Level groups...loved the tour. The sheer scale of the port is mind blowing!"*

Contact the EBP for more Professional Development placement opportunities



Employers form a question time panel

## Ambassadors lead the way for young women

Women who have made their careers in science, technology, engineering and maths are being recruited as STEM Ambassadors to inspire more girls to develop their skills in these fields. Here are some examples from across Suffolk:

### Rising Star

**Claire Bishop was awarded the 2011 East of England Business Women 'Rising Star' award for her work in water hygiene management, so is a particularly good role model for young women.**

A Service Delivery Manager for building risk management business Nemco Utilities, Claire joined the company with a Business Studies degree and has since completed a City & Guilds course in Hot and Cold Domestic Water Systems.

Asked why she decided to become a STEM Ambassador, Claire said: "I've always wanted to give something back and show students what it can all look like after you have qualified and gone through education,

to show how much it really is all relevant.

"I want to be able to work with the people who are just starting out on their careers and help them along the way (identifying and using different skills other than their academic ability) so they don't turn up to interviews etc like some people I have had walk through the door!," said Claire, who has links with Thurston Community College and will be supporting a careers events at East Bergholt High School.

"Winning the award was an amazing experience; to be around so many influential women for the evening has certainly given me a boost in confidence!" she added.



Claire Bishop hopes her 'Rising Star' award will inspire young women to make the most of their skills

### People skills

**New STEM Ambassador Justine Martin, 28, uses her own career experience to highlight the need for students to have good interpersonal skills as well as qualifications to find a rewarding job.**

An Account Executive for Circleline design consultancy based in Beccles, Justine has a degree in Biology and originally planned to become a teacher, but found her creative and people skills took her in a different direction.

Justine said: "I really enjoy talking to people and networking, so I got a job in customer services and went from there. I have always wanted to work with young people, so this is an ideal



Justine highlights the importance of employability skills for young people

way for me to combine my job with the STEM Ambassador role."

Her enthusiasm for making education

business links means she has already taken part in a number of EBP enterprise challenges and employer events in north Suffolk schools.

"Many young people are interested in careers in graphic and website design and using social media for marketing. It is a tough field to get into, but I hope I can give them an idea of what's involved and the sort of skills they need.

"A lot of young people are not really aware of what is out there with regards to jobs, so I feel it is important to highlight the employability skills they will need as well as qualifications. I am hoping I can also use my experience to provide mock interviews for students to prepare them so they can succeed when they go for a job or college place."

To find out more, visit the EBP website at [www.suffolkebp.co.uk](http://www.suffolkebp.co.uk), or contact Suffolk STEM Manager, Ann Cloke on 07768 903392, email [ann.cloke@suffolkebp.co.uk](mailto:ann.cloke@suffolkebp.co.uk)

## Perfect job

Debbie Guest has found the perfect job combining her interest in horses and scientific research. Based at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, she is leading investigation into the use of stem cells to treat tendon injuries in horses.

Having enjoyed science at school, and studied Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A-level, she went on to do a degree in Genetics. A lab-based research project then helped her to decide to follow her degree with a PhD in stem cell biology.

"I was fortunate to see a job that involved working to derive horse stem cells. Having always had a horse it seemed a perfect combination of my interests and qualifications," said Debbie, a new STEM Ambassador.

"When I was at school it was never clear what a job in science research involved and so I wanted the chance to tell younger people about what I do and how I got to be doing it. I would like to get involved with local schools with events where I can use my experience to demonstrate how the science they are studying is being applied in the real world.

Debbie adds: "I think the stereotypical view of a scientist is still an old man! Hopefully by taking part in the STEM Ambassador scheme I can help to change this view."



Debbie Guest has found her perfect job

## Suffolk school wins STEM Challenge

Students from Chantry High School, Suffolk have won a national STEM Challenge to design a smartphone app which can be used by visitors to London 2012.

STEM Challenges are a series of competitions designed to encourage young people aged 11-14 to use the skills learned in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths lessons to help prepare for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Chantry's all-female 'Torch Stalker' team came up with the winning app to follow the Olympic Torch relay around the country, visiting places of interest along the route. The trio was one of two Suffolk teams to reach the national final in London in October, with Kesgrave High School's team also competing against six other schools from across the UK.

Organised by STEMNET (the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Network) STEM Challenge 7, supported by BT, asked students to help make London 2012 Everyone's Games by designing an app that provides useful and accessible information.

The Chantry team won £1,000 worth of equipment for their STEM Club and an experience prize from BT for their winning design, which was commended by the judges for its professional finish and in-depth technical knowledge

Ann Cloke, STEM Manager for Suffolk based at the EBP, said: "This is a great result for Suffolk. Well done to the Chantry team and all who supported them, particularly



their teacher 'Oma Adigwe and BT STEM Ambassador Sandra Stinčić Clarke.

"Teams from Riverside Middle, Beyton Middle, East Bergholt High, Westbourne High, and St Albans High Schools also took part in the regional competition and came up with exciting ideas for new apps."

Suffolk STEM Ambassador Sandra Stinčić Clarke, a Senior Researcher for BT, said: "Being there when the idea sparked, watching how the team developed it without realising how spot on they were and how they worked together, I was really impressed with their ability to listen to each other and to pick up best ideas from informal discussion."

"I am so proud of them, as they worked really hard on their design and presentation, and gave up their spare time to make it all work."

**STEM Challenge 9 is for 11-14 year olds to design a spectacular device to light the Paralympic Flame. Find out more and register by 23 January at [www.stemchallenges.net](http://www.stemchallenges.net)**

The winning "Torch Stalker" team with Paralympic star Nathan Stephens



## Targeting support brings results

The EBP has a successful track record of recruiting volunteers to inspire young people, and is working to target this support for boys from black minority ethnic and white working class backgrounds through the **Stronger Communities Mentoring project**.

EBP Mentoring Co-ordinator, Paul McCarthy says: "Schools welcome mentoring as an effective way to support young people, particularly teenage boys. The mentor's role differs to a teacher, parent or friend and provides young people with a safe



space for them to talk of their ambitions, experiences and concerns. For some young people, positive and non-

judgmental time and attention can provide an opportunity to explore and learn new skills to make the most of their time at school."

A recent EBP poster campaign has helped to attract more volunteer mentors with similar backgrounds to the young people, who can help them achieve at school.



## Mentor inspires a future sports star

Paul McCarthy, EBP Mentoring Co-ordinator, talked to a new mentor about his role and the difference he is making for one of the young people at Stoke High School.

A former casework assistant, Lloyd had little experience of working with young people, but was sympathetic to the issues they face. He recalls his own experience of occasionally being disruptive in the

classroom and getting into bother when he stood up for himself, as well as having brothers who had not made the best choices when they were growing up.

Lloyd took part in four weekly mentor training sessions at the EBP to help him prepare for the role.

One of his mentees, Ben (not his real name), aged 16, recently moved from his parent's home in London to live with his brother in Ipswich and is in Year 11. He was referred for weekly mentoring support because he's bright, but has behavioural issues, so needs support to realise his potential.

After finding out about Ben's strong interest in sport and sharing his own love of American football, Lloyd suggested that he attended 'try outs' for the game being held in London. Ben went along knowing little about the rules, but his agility and charisma was praised by the coaches, who said he would make a good quarter back. As a result, he has been offered a paid trip to visit two American colleges offering a sports study scholarship when he is 18.

Now, Lloyd is helping his mentee to find a way to stay on in education, perhaps studying engineering, until he is old enough to take up the offer. Meanwhile, Ben plans to train with the Ipswich Cardinals American football team.

Ben was initially skeptical of mentoring, but now says he values how 'Lloyd treats



Mentor Lloyd inspires his mentee through American football

me like an equal' and his 'understanding of how things are going on for me' helps to overcome his problems with making new friends and being accepted.

Lloyd has also changed his expectations of mentoring: "The mentees are more intelligent than I expected. I thought that if they have challenging behaviour or are being difficult, that they would be below average.

"It reminds of what I was like when I was that age. These young people have so much potential," added Lloyd, who feels very positive about the benefits of mentoring.

**To find out more, contact Paul McCarthy, EBP Mentoring Coordinator, on 01473 408062 or [paul.mccarthy@suffolkebp.co.uk](mailto:paul.mccarthy@suffolkebp.co.uk)**

## Working in the real world

Shaun Coptcoat, aged 14, took the initiative to spend his half-term break gaining some useful work experience in the EBP office. He said: "My time at the EBP has enabled me to get a greater understanding and insight into how a business works as well as bulking up a small CV with experience that will help me stand out from the crowd later on. This is particularly relevant and important as I don't get my GCSEs until next year and want to start earning in the real world before then."

Shaun Coptcoat at the EBP



## Valuing employers

The EBP values its links with schools and the feedback we get helps to shape our services. In the first of a new series giving leaders their say, Andrew Fell, Headteacher of Chantry High School, talks to Angela Edwards, EBP Area Manager for South Suffolk.

### Tell me a bit about your school?

Chantry High School is an 11-16 school in South West Ipswich serving the Chantry estate. The school has seen results rise rapidly over the last few years, as a result of continuous innovation and a dedicated staff. The school places a high value on the quality of relationships and consequently it is a very pleasant place to work. It is also very inclusive, meeting the needs of a very diverse population of students.

### How long have you been the Head at Chantry and have you always worked in teaching?

I have been Head for three years and prior to that was Deputy Head for three years. After a short spell in industry in the North East, I have always taught. I started my teaching career in special schools and have taught overseas.

### Why do you think it's a good idea for your school to have links with employers?

I strongly believe that working closely together with business not only helps prepare students for the world of work, it also helps businesses grow and develop. It is vital for the economic wellbeing of our community that students have transferable skills as they leave, which will sustain them in a complex and changing economy. Business can learn and adapt from the energy and enthusiasm that young people have.

### What do you think are the skills and qualities that employers look for in a young person?

We define success at Chantry High School in three broad areas: Personal Responsibility, Contributions to School and the wider community and Academic Achievement. In my experience employers



Andrew Fell

are looking for students who demonstrate skills and achievements in those areas.

### How have you linked with the EBP?

We have had close links with Suffolk EBP in the past via mentoring schemes. We are currently intensifying our work with the EBP by working closely together on several projects: raising aspirations across the community including working with our primaries; developing employability skills with our school leavers; and targeted interventions with our students who are at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).

### What piece of advice would you give to a young person leaving school that has helped you in your career?

Two pieces of advice really helped me. Firstly, my parents gave me the option to leave school at 16 - I did, and soon regretted it. I went back to school to do my A Levels, so make your own mind up on career choice, don't let others decide for you. The second piece of advice was more of a question and was from the first head teacher I worked for; he asked me if I wanted to make a difference to young people? I did.

## E4L expands

Youth unemployment in the UK has reached over 1 million (November 2011). That means 1 in 5 of young people aged 16-25 are currently unemployed or are seeking employment.

Education and business have a major role to play in supporting young people to develop a healthy work ethic and positive attitude towards their future career development.

The EBP supports Suffolk's Employability 4 Life (E4L) Charter initiative, which provides the opportunity for young people to demonstrate their work skills by evidencing good work practice in their everyday lives.

Led by the Suffolk County Council's Learning and Improvement 14-19 team as part of the Backing Young Suffolk campaign, the E4L scheme is being offered in a number of 14-19 partnerships across the county and is growing as more learning centres and businesses become aware of the benefits.

Kath Ridealgh, Adviser 14-19 Vocational Curriculum, said: "The E4L Charter gives young people the chance to demonstrate key employability skills such as attendance, punctuality, appearance, communication and professional conduct. We are expanding the scheme to include skills such as project management, social enterprise and teamworking."

"We also have plans for a primary version to give younger children aged 7 to 11 a good foundation for future career portfolios. A pilot scheme will be supported by the EBP through primary World of Work days in Spring 2012".

Visit [www.suffolk1419infosite.com](http://www.suffolk1419infosite.com) to find out more





## Case Study: Big Conversations schools and employers event, 9 November 2011

### What was the event about?

Students from North Suffolk high schools met with local employers and business ambassadors to have some 'big conversations' about what it takes to succeed in the world of work.

The event brought an opportunity to discuss employability skills and to be inspired by the career experiences of business leaders and professionals from a wide range of fields.

Held at a smart leisure venue and sponsored by Waveney District Council, the day began with ice-breaker games, followed by lively round table discussions.

After lunch, students worked with creative media professionals to create information packs and presentations designed to spread the word in their own schools about what they had learned.

### Who was it for?

Year 9 students, aged 13 -14, from Bungay, The Denes, Hartismere, Leiston, Pakefield and Sir John Leman high schools, together with 33 employers and professionals.

### How did it make an impact?

Students discovered it was okay not to know what you want to do when you leave school as long as you keep your options open.

It was an opportunity for employers to meet young people and for the EBP to recruit new ambassadors to work with schools.

### What did people think of it?

"Well done - what a great day for the students and employers for that matter."



Mayor of Lowestoft, Tod Sullivan, talks to students about his own career path

Julie Mayo, Business and Enterprise Co-ordinator, The Denes High School, Lowestoft.

"We learnt about working with people we didn't know and we spoke to people about different experiences. It's been an amazing experience and I hope to keep in touch with people I have met"

Deanna Provis, Year 9.

"It was a great opportunity to meet young people, to understand their

aspirations and to encourage them to pursue education as part of that. Both the event and the young people were fantastic."

Tod Sullivan, Mayor of Lowestoft.

### Who made it happen?

**Organisers:** Suffolk Education Business Partnership (EBP)

**Supporters:** Waveney District Council, Enterprise Lowestoft, Job Centre Plus, Lowestoft College and Suffolk County Council.

**Employers:** 4rcetraining, CEFAS, Circleline, EDF Energy, Ensors, Graphics Matter, Job Centre Plus, Leiston Press, Marine East, NHS, North Suffolk Skills Centre, Neftemer, Scottish Power Renewables, St Johns Housing, Suffolk Police and The Morton Partnership.

### Where can I find out more?

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Talking about employability skills