

Student placement works out well

Alex Roberts was a Year 11 student from Goldwyn Community Special School, Ashford. When Alex was originally interviewed for work experience options he jokingly said that his dream job would be to work in a skate park, as this was a passion of his. I took this information back to the office and my colleague, Jamie Shirlaw did a search. He found Bay Sixty6 and had a chat with Manager Rory MacDonald. Rory was initially reluctant to take Alex due to unsuccessful past experience but eventually agreed. I have never seen a young person so ecstatic, as according to Alex, Bay Sixty6 is the number one skate park in the country.

We were originally concerned if Alex would rise to the challenge but he more than exceeded our expectations. Not only did Alex organise his travel well, he arrived early everyday. This became increasingly more difficult the more tired he became but he never let the side down. When I went to visit him to take photographs for this article Alex was cleaning the bins as the park had just closed due to the bad weather. He explained that although there were more interesting things to do, cleaning bins and toilets were an important part of keeping a business going. I also met the team that run the park and they repeatedly expressed how impressed they were with Alex's attitude, commitment and hard work, so much so that they offered him a further week's placement working in all areas of the business, which Alex accepted with vigour! The team's opinion of work experience had certainly changed and they are now looking into doing more work with schools in the future.

At the end of the placement Rory and his team wrote to me expressing what a success the placement had been and inviting Alex to visit anytime he likes. (This is considered a great honour in the skating world.) Alex of course has made the most of the offer. Well done Alex. I know that Goldwyn School would like to join me in thanking Rory and his team for all their support in giving a young person a fantastic work experience.

Anita Trotter
Business Education Advisor

Kent Works



Alex doing running repairs at Bay Sixty6.

Kent Works NEWSLETTER

September 2007

New look organisation ready for academic year

Over the summer months Kent Works has been undergoing a review of its resources, administration and services. The result is a more streamlined and cost-effective operation that will continue to provide high quality services countywide: work experi-

ence placements for 14-19 year olds, work related learning activities for schools and colleges and professional development opportunities for school staff. Mike Kiernan leads the organisation consisting of a management team and 15 Business Education Advisors. We are also

currently developing our employer database to make it more efficient, to improve communication between us and employers and to help our service for schools and colleges. For more information on Kent Works and its services please contact us (see page 4).



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BIG Business Pitch

Following a very successful series of Big Business Pitch enterprise programmes last term in Thanet and Ashford, which culminated in a grand final played out between local schools, Kent Works is offering this enterprise project for students across the county. The Big Business Pitch

aims to increase students awareness and understanding of business and commerce, learn key employability and enterprise skills and enhance and develop their personal skills. Kent Works will provide all paperwork, lesson plans and activity sheets. The Big Business Pitch uses the ideopoly toolkit developed by the Design Council. This is an enterprise education package developed by a team of designers and educators for use by budding entrepreneurs. Kent Works will also secure business speakers,



facilitators and judges from the business community. For more information on this and the costs for taking a one, three or five day package please call Kent Works on 0845 601 9940.

A racing start for masterclasses

Kent Works, will be running a series of masterclasses across Kent with the aim of maximising job opportunity and career progression for all 14-19 year olds. Masterclasses forms part of KCC's 2010 commitment to increase prosperity through business growth and job creation.

The first masterclass for



schools from North West Kent will be held at Brands Hatch on 17 October, where the leader of KCC Paul Carter will open the proceedings. This exciting and famous venue will host a variety of activities including an inspirational and motivational talk from businessman and former Great Britain Olympic high jumper Jeff Parsons. There will be a range of employers who will run interactive workshops to address important skills related to world of work: management and leadership, entrepreneurship and innovation, self-employment and work readiness, values and behaviour. These workshops will be followed by visits to various busi-

nesses in the area where students will have the opportunity to experience a normal working day within that business. Connexions advisors will also be available to give advice and guidance through a series of interactive programmes. A key highlight on the day will be the opportunity for the students to give their feedback via the Videogube, (a bit like the Big Brother diary room), so we can see what young people really feel about the opportunities they see in Kent in the future. For more information on this please call Jan Thornby on 01474 353608 or 428565 or Phoebe Allen on 01474 353608 or 07824 305745. ■

Students shine in Kent Works regeneration project

Students from Gravesend Grammar School, Dartford Grammar School for Girls, Dartford Grammar School, St George's Church of England School, Gravesend, Wilmington Grammar School for Boys, Axton Chase School, Longfield and Leigh City Technology College, Dartford battled it out in a competition to raise awareness of regeneration in North Kent. The students produced work based around Land Securities' Ebbsfleet Valley project, looking at leisure, business, open space and transport. Annabel Lawrence from Kent Works: said "The standard of

the work was impressive and each of the schools tackled the project in an innovative and challenging way. Students showed an immense interest in regeneration and the work taking place on their doorsteps. We hope that this project has sparked their interest even further". A DVD of the project will be produced to encourage more schools and organisations to get involved. The project was supported by Kent Works along with Kent Thameside Development who were joined by Kent Thameside Delivery Board and Gateway Knowledge Alliance. ■



And the winners are.... Leigh City Technology College with their winning designs and ideas.

First Kent Tomorrow Conference is a Success!

The inaugural Kent Tomorrow Higher Education and Careers Conference was held over two days at University of Kent, Canterbury in July. Supported by Kent Works the conference explored the issue of

graduate retention in the county and promoted the local universities as options for students. Sixty form students from nine business and enterprise schools from across the county took part in informative interactive workshops

which covered topics from University life to what businesses look for in graduates and employees. Key speakers included KCC leader Paul Carter, entrepreneur Graham Webb MBE and Frazer Thompson from IOD Kent. ■

Kent Works hosts Education and Business zone at 20 20

At the 20/20 Business Link event at Detling in April, Kent Works organized a Education and Business zone in the John Hendry Pavilion. This highlighted examples of excellence in work related learning and invited providers and exhibitors including KCC KVTP, KCC Key Training and Young Enterprise. Schools were invited from across the county. A very busy day in the zone saw the launch of two major projects which Kent Works is in-

involved in. The Work Ready Award scheme – officially launched by Paul Carter, leader of KCC at the event, is aimed at schools and colleges, who will be expected to teach, monitor and record specific areas of achievement so that students aged 14 plus can prove their readiness for entering a work experience placement. More information can be found on www.workreadyaward.co.uk.

The other launch was the Industry Champions project. The



Students from Cheyne Middle School, Sheppy talking to guests at the Kent Works Education and Business zone at 20 20.



Students from The Skinners School show KCC leader Paul Carter examples of their work related learning in the Kent Works Education and Business Zone at 20 20.

LSC have provided the funds for this special employer engagement initiative which looks for business professionals with a minimum of five years experience in a given sector to play an active role in education and support young people through a number of ways, not only by placing a student on work experience, but by giving workshops in schools, becoming a school governor or mentor etc. So far sixty champions have agreed to participate representing a range of industries. To find out more contact Jan Thornby on 01474 353608 or 07920 428560 or visit our website. ■

Students show flair for architecture

Budding design students from Minster College, Westlands School, Community College Whitstable, Herne Bay High School, Abbey School, Faversham, Thamesview School, Gravesend and Northfleet School for Girls attended a celebratory final of a contest to come up with ideas for the Newington Pavilion at Tunstall Village Hall, Sittingbourne. The competition was arranged by Kent Architecture Centre to look at ideas from young people for possible use in the finished pavilion. Marion Ward from Kent Works said: "It has been very successful, giving students a real life experience from which some of their ideas may be used". As part of the project Ryan Burke from Westlands School won a digital camera for a photography competition 'Meeting places in your community'. ■



Students from Community College Whitstable and Herne Bay High School with teacher Johnny Mann and the Mayor of Swale at the young architects celebration at Tunstall Village School.