

# Skills Circus

How can you help young people develop an Enterprising approach to work and careers?



By offering just a few hours per year volunteering to support a Skills Circus workshop in a Croydon school / college, young students will benefit directly from your experience in the world of work.

The Skills Circus workshop provides an opportunity for business volunteers to help prepare young people for future employment by developing the spirit of enterprise and entrepreneurship.

## What is a Skills Circus workshop?

The Skills Circus is a planned 2-hour event organised by CEBP for groups of 12-16 year old students with business / adult volunteers working alongside teachers to develop:

- Co-operative working with a partner
- An enterprising approach to learning
- Skills in communication, leadership, problem-solving, competition, risk-taking, and research
- Student understanding of enterprise and entrepreneurship and the qualities, attitudes, skills and knowledge required
- Enthusiasm and a fun approach to learning

## How does the programme run?

The Skills Circus is comprised of 15 timed activities that focus on students' knowledge and skills related to enterprise. The range of both practical and theoretical activities test and identify students' strengths and weaknesses. The tasks are set out at the beginning of the session in a horseshoe formation and the students are put into pairs, competing to complete the tasks within the time frame given.

## What is my role as a business volunteer?

- Attend an induction or work shadow an event
- Attend a briefing meeting on the day of the workshop to meet your assigned teacher
- Set out resources, lead and facilitate the activity
- Build students' self-esteem and confidence, and develop their awareness of customer expectations

## What are the benefits to business?

- Opportunity for staff development
- Raise company profile in the community
- Gain knowledge of current education / qualifications
- Review of recruitment procedures / practices
- Knowing that you are making a difference

## What the students say:

*'It really has helped me to think about my particular strengths, and my weaknesses that I need to improve upon'*

*'I learned how to think outside the box which made the tasks all the more enjoyable'*

## What the business volunteers say:

*'I realise that different skills are needed when dealing with young people and this will help me in my training role at work'*

*'The students quickly learned how to draw on each other's particular abilities to complete the tasks and were fairly resourceful and enterprising'*

## What do I do next?

Please invest in Croydon's young people and future by participating in this and other CEBP activities including:

- Mock Interviews
- Employability Skills Workshops
- Business Champions
- Enterprise Days
- Professional Development for Teachers
- Bizzy Partners

**Contact the team at CEBP... we're here to help!**



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