

## Extended Work Experience - 'Giving Breadth and Balance in Learning'

The Department for Education & Skills acknowledges that the current structure of the curriculum at Key Stage 4 (ages 14 to 16) can be a barrier to student motivation. Part of the drive to break down that barrier is Extended Work Experience (EWE). Students undertake EWE approximately 1-2 days per week, sometimes more, in a carefully chosen placement which may last for several months. Most students will be attending school for the remainder of the week.

The structured programme is for students in Years 10 and 11 who would benefit from a work related programme of education. It is geared towards providing a practical alternative for students for whom the normal based school curriculum is not entirely suitable. Students from all over the county are benefiting from EWE placements which give them a real opportunity to develop and improve practical skills, and can assist in their personal development and increase motivation and self-esteem.

The EBP has a vital role in ensuring that it works. Carol Brown, Work Experience Placement Approval Officer, checks that potential EWE placements meet Health and Safety requirements. Shropshire EBP also publishes a set of directories of over 5,000 approved Work Experience placements for use by schools and colleges.

**For further information on Extended Work Experience, please contact Mandy Swain at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**



**Work Experience  
Directory  
2003  
TUTOR GUIDE**

## The 'Wright' Stuff - Those Magnificent Men...

To celebrate the centenary of manned flight and to promote National Science Week Shropshire EBP/SETPOINT, sponsored by the Institute of Physics, ran a series of rocket workshops at the RAF Museum, Cosford.

On the weekend of 8th/9th March 2003, 548 members of the public (all ages) took the opportunity to make and launch their own pneumatic powered rockets across the main hangar. Over the following week a further 753 children and teachers, from Primary, Secondary, Independent and Special schools across Shropshire visited the workshops for a more focussed science activity.



Feedback has been very positive with much fun had over the week, however, the museum maintenance staff are likely to be removing lost rockets from heaters, rafters and exhibits for some time yet!

**For further information on National Science Week, please contact Nigel Moore at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**

## Relay Gold for Bishop's Castle

Congratulations to all those involved with the Bishops Castle Community College Young Engineers Club who won a Gold Medal in this year's BBC Techno Games relay event. With the help and support of their local engineering volunteer, and with part sponsorship from Shropshire EBP/SETPOINT, the team produced an innovative changeover device that proved both successful and reliable enough to beat last year's champions.

This success is not a 'one off' as the club recently won the Royal Navy Challenge 2003 and have a tradition of success in regional and national events. They regularly enter teams in the Young Engineer for Britain competition and have won a number of awards and prizes over the years.

**For further information on BBC Techno Games, please contact Nigel Moore at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**

## Shropshire SETPOINT

Shropshire SETPOINT - the Science, Engineering & Technology Point - is part of Shropshire EBP. It's one of 53 SETPOINT's in the UK and is a member of the Science, Engineering & Technology Network (SETNET). The SETPOINT has the following strategic priority:

To enable every young person, at each key stage, to have the opportunity to participate in an appropriate science, technology, engineering or maths activity linking schools to business and the world of work.

**For further information, please contact Nigel Moore at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010 or visit [www.shropshire-setpoint.co.uk](http://www.shropshire-setpoint.co.uk)**

SETPOINT



## Shropshire Education Business Links Consortium



Shropshire EBP has formed the Shropshire EBL Consortium with business dynamics and Young Enterprise, which also organise activities which give young people real life experience of industry and commerce. The Consortium is a single point of contact for information, advice and guidance on links between education and business in Shropshire.

**For further information, please contact Richard Jeary at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010 or visit [www.seblc.com](http://www.seblc.com)**

## Watch This Space!!

For up to date information on activities organised by Shropshire EBP, please visit our [www.shropshire-ebp.co.uk](http://www.shropshire-ebp.co.uk) website or phone us on 01952 681010

SUMMER 2003



Education  
working hand in hand  
with Business

[www.shropshire-ebp.co.uk](http://www.shropshire-ebp.co.uk)

# SHROPSHIRE EBP NEWS

The newsletter of Shropshire Education Business Partnership

## And the winner is...

This year local schools Ercall Wood Technology College, Madeley Court School, Priory School and The Thomas Telford School were all proud recipients of the Shropshire Excellence in Work Experience Award. Richard Jeary presented The Priory School's award at a year 10 assembly in front of headteacher Candy Garbett and teacher Ian Griffiths.

The Shropshire Excellence in Work Experience Award is designed to accredit good practice in Work Experience. The thrust of the scheme is to enable and support institutions in developing an integrated, holistic approach that ensures that students get best value from their Work Experience placement.



Madeley Court School



Priory School



Ercall Wood School

## Mitch Meets his Match!

### ABRAHAM DARBY AND LORD SILKIN SCHOOLS

Over 70 Year 9 students from Abraham Darby and Lord Silkin schools had a stimulating day at RAF Cosford working with local engineering companies as part of a National Construction Week event organised by Shropshire EBP.

The scenario was a natural disaster, in this case 'Hurricane Mitch' in Honduras. The challenge was to take on the role of civil engineers dealing with the aftermath of the hurricane and rebuilding the physical infrastructure of the disaster area. The challenge was a cross-curricular activity designed to enhance their thinking skills, problem solving and team building activities.

In the shadow of a BAC 111, equipped with hard hats (in team colours) and fluorescent safety jackets, donated by Civil Engineering Contractors Associations, the students set to work to provide engineering solutions to the

problems of water distribution and shelter in the simulated devastation.

The completed engineering solutions were impressive, but the best moments were seeing these young people working and thinking together using hands and brains in a common cause.

Neil Foley, teacher at Abraham Darby said, 'Thanks for a brilliant day, the kids loved it and are still talking about it.' More engineers for the future? We'll see.



**For further information please contact Richard Jeary at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**

**For further information please contact Lorraine Gregory at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**



EDUCATION WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH BUSINESS

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## Small Stuff but Big Business!



■ Thirty-three new mini businesses were started up last year in Shropshire, all supported by Shropshire

Education Business Partnership. For a third year the EBP has engaged primary school children in 'Mini Enterprise Projects' which use real money, real resources, real products and goods, real customers and consumers, real profits (or losses!) and are done in real time.

The pupils in the 27 schools taking part had to put together a plan setting out their company's business strategy, and showing how the business would fit in with the primary school curriculum. When the plan was approved, the class were given a one-off payment of £50 to start up their company, and then the fun began.

Randlay Primary School saw an opening in the football sticker market, urging their fellow pupils to 'Stick with Us', running a sticker swap shop at playtime four days a week. They saw that some children

couldn't get the stickers they wanted, either because shops had sold out or they were just very rare. They looked at the wider issues too, setting up swap 'protocols' and pledging litter patrols to deal with discarded sticker packets.

Sticking with environmental concerns, Amelia Reynolds set up 'The Green Mean Recycling Team' at Randlay. The Business Plan detailed the two aims of 'saving the environment and helping educate the children of the school into recycling.' The plan included resources, organisation, personnel, safety and a business projection. This impressive non-profit making organisation exuded confidence in both the 'why' and the 'wherefore'.

Once again, giving young people the chance to work on 'real stuff' has been very profitable, and the business benefits are still to be counted years from now.

**For further information on Mini Enterprise, please contact Lorraine Gregory at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**

## A State of the ART Professional Development Placement

■ Five days working alongside the curators and gallery staff at three Wolverhampton museums and art galleries has fired the imagination of Sarah Yates, Art Co-ordinator at Claverley Primary School. Her placement, organised by Shropshire EBP, enabled her to make links between the requirements of the National Curriculum and the resources and facilities offered by the galleries. 'I was able to explore how art can be used to enhance other areas of the curriculum, e.g. History.' She worked with an exhibition assistant to develop a 'trail' for the Summer Exhibition at Wolverhampton Art Gallery aimed at pupils up to 7 years old. She compiled a staff resource for the three galleries for teachers to consult when planning visits, with ideas for tasks and activities linking with QCA units of work for Art and Design. Sarah was particularly impressed with the possibilities presented by digital art in the ICT suite.

Sarah says she would love 'a further opportunity to continue

work with gallery staff to allow me to develop ideas and build on this initial placement.'

We offer teachers the time, space and support to work in and experience life outside the classroom in order to enhance what goes on back in the classroom,' said Lorraine Gregory from Shropshire EBP, 'all teachers and lecturers are eligible to apply for a Professional Development Placement whether it be for 1 day or 5 days, term-time or own time.'

**For further information on Professional Development Placements, please contact Lorraine Gregory at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**



## Do the Shake an' Track

■ Over 700 Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils have enjoyed Shropshire EBP/SETPOINT's Robot Road Show activity in 2002/3.

Younger pupils made a 'Jiggle Bug' robot (moved by vibration) using an old CD and some basic electrical parts. Once built and tested the robot is decorated using a pre-drawn characters sheet, which, depending on the time of year, include Santa, Rudolph, The Snowman, Easter Chick or Bunny, Sylvester the Cat, Tweetie Pie, Porky Pig, Taz...

'Thank you for the robots, it was great fun, I liked the decorating' - Class 1 Pupil, Albrighton Infant School.

'Thanks again for coming and showing us how to make the robots, all the cubs had a lot of fun from this activity' - Cub Scout leader, 2nd Market Drayton Cubs.

Older pupils get the opportunity to work in small groups using a dedicated laptop to programme a Lego robot to find its way through a pre-built maze using a combination of touch and light sensors. In the future it's hoped that the

robots will be fitted with small cameras and beam a live 'robot's eye' view of the children's classroom back to each laptop.

**For further information on the Robot Roadshows, please contact Nigel Moore at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**



## Holding Hands for those First Steps

■ As part of the 'Steps to Work Readiness Programme' organised by Shropshire EBP, Orleton Park School operates a business mentoring programme in Year 11. This year the programme involved 9 mentors who represented the Holiday Inn, Ricoh, Lyreco, New College, EDS and The Borough of Telford and Wrekin. The four members from EDS, the global information technology and services company, provided strong and much needed support.

The mentors visited the students in school on four occasions: an icebreaker session; producing a CV; developing interview techniques and a final evaluation session. The students also went into the workplace on two occasions for a tour, and breakfast was included!

All the mentors showed great commitment, dedication and professionalism and, indeed, exceeded our expectations. The students greatly valued their 'Steps to Work' experience with the mentors, and in the feedback we got the impression

that the mentors got a buzz out of it too. Katherine Hughes from EDS said 'It has been a fantastic experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed myself.' Martin Simmelker, Community Relations Manager at EDS says 'The company sees the programme as an excellent means for staff development and also an ideal way of making an impact in the local community in which the company is based. We hope we can stay involved with the EBP for many years to come and to continue benefiting the many students who become involved with 'Steps' So, it's a win, win situation'.

We feel that those lucky students are much better equipped to take advantage of their post-16 opportunities, and their own hard work and involvement with 'Steps to Work' will pay real dividends.

**For further information on Steps to Work, please contact Mandy Swain at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**



Martin Simmelker, Steps Mentor from EDS.

## The Annual Work Experience Conference - Learning to Work... Working to Learn

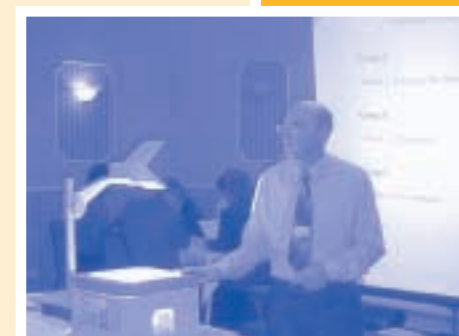
■ Forty Work Experience Co-ordinators from local schools and colleges met at two EBP conferences in the early part of the year. Richard Jeary, Shropshire EBP's General Manager, led the professional development day, which included an overview of the support and resources the EBP offers to teachers, sharing of good practice, updates on Work Experience related issues with special reference to the 14-19 Curriculum changes and, of course, the chance to 'network'.

The primary resource the EBP has created is a set of Directories of Approved Placements, which are in two sections. One, for pupils, groups the placements in occupations, the second, for teachers, has potential placement employers ordered A-Z. Pupils are generally encouraged to seek out their own Work Experience placements, schools passing on pupils' choices to the EBP who then run Health and Safety checks and ensure a risk assessment is completed.

Delegates were consulted on the possibilities of putting details of approved Work Experience on Shropshire EBP's www.shropshire-ebp.co.uk website. Schools and partner organisations are being widely encouraged to use ICT to enable wider participation and involvement by young people. On-line access to placement opportunities would form part of the web-site web.

The conference had further up-dates on Health and Safety issues from Bryan Hayward of the Learning and Skills Council, and from Mandy Swain who shared current thinking on Equal Opportunities and Gender Stereotyping in schools and the workplace.

**For further information please contact Richard Jeary at Shropshire EBP on 01952 681010**



Brian Hayward, Learning and Skills Council

