

Case Study – Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham Sixth Form Enterprise Challenge

Background about the school

Queen Elizabeth is a community high school with over 450 students in the sixth form. It is situated in Hexham, Northumberland and attracts students from Hexham itself and the surrounding rural area.

What we were trying to achieve

The aims of the sixth form enterprise challenge were to:

- Raise awareness of enterprise among sixth form students
- Generate new business ideas
- Provide the opportunity for students to use their entrepreneurial skills
- Provide support and advice to students wishing to start their own enterprise

What we did

Two members of staff from the sixth form team attended a training day run by the Northumberland Enterprise Learning Network (NELN). This provided information and advice on how the enterprise challenge could be run in schools. This information was then disseminated to the 12 tutor team through training carried out in school.

Across three tutorial lessons students were asked to come up with possible business ideas and to work towards choosing what they considered to be their best one and to then create a presentation to sell this idea. Guests were invited into school to listen to the presentations from each group.



The ideas included:

Organising a 'Winter Wonderland' event (ice rink, food and drink stalls, etc.)

Silent disco

Online magazine

Music workshops in first/middle schools

Selling advertising space on cocktail umbrellas



Groups with viable ideas were given the opportunity to receive a small loan to assist with developing their idea further. An advisor from Social Enterprise Northumberland is now meeting regularly with students to provide support and advice in running a business.

What surprised us

Range of fantastic ideas

Level of enthusiasm

Confidence in delivery of presentations

Small number interested in using loan to develop business idea further

What we learned

Students do have the ideas needed to set up their own business, however, for a large number of them full timetables and other commitments outside of school mean the time needed to take these ideas further is limited.



What other schools can learn

If more time is available in the tutorial program, could being involved in running an enterprise be compulsory for every student, with more of the necessary work being carried out during tutorial lessons?