

## Case Study – Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham, Motivational Workshop

### Background about the School

Queen Elizabeth High School 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:

- To help students identify how they can make the most of opportunities given to them
- To allow students to explore their own internal barriers to risk taking
- To help students consider how they can overcome barriers to risk taking

Risk taking is a key element of enterprise – at the end of this conference we hoped that students would be more willing to take on challenges and accept risk.

### What we did

All students in year 12 (265) attended a motivational workshop called “Reach for the power inside you”. The workshop was run by an organisation called Tree of Knowledge and it aimed to help students identify how they could make the most of opportunities given to them.

Through the workshop students were encouraged to explore how to make the most of opportunities and to consider what stopped them taking on risks and taking on challenges. The importance and power of positive thinking and the avoidance of “can’t do” was also explored.

### What surprised us

- The very positive feedback that came from the conference. Many students suggested that it had really made them think about themselves, their potential and their future.
- This is a very difficult thing to do with students of this age and this workshop is one of the few times we have seen it done successfully.

### What we learned

- That this is a very important and powerful method for getting students to question where they were at and where they were going.
- That this needs individual follow up to build on the momentum of the workshop. The workshop makes the students ready to accept change and challenge – it needs follow up so they act on these feelings.

### What other schools can learn

- As a tool for enabling students to engage with the qualities and skills required for successful entrepreneurs – it is excellent.
- It needs to be built on – we are considering doing this through a motivational and action planning day.