

# NATIONAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

**Enterprise Week is an annual UK-wide week of activities and events, aimed at inspiring young people (14-30) to have ideas and make them happen.**

The drive to nurture enterprise talent needs business, education, government, voluntary organisations and the media to work together. National Enterprise Week this year was 12th – 16th November so as part of the Councils increased agenda regarding the local economy and enterprise development we launched a Competition with the Melton Learning Hub. The challenge to the students was to design a functional, promotional item that would highlight National Enterprise Week and that the Council could produce for less than £1 per item.



The young people came along to an after school Mentoring session that saw local business representatives including Simon Brian from Encore Public Relations, Matthew Jones from Verdant, Cllr

Alison Freer (Chair of Leicestershire & Rutland Women in Rural Enterprise), Samantha Berry MBC Arts Officer & Anna Oultram MBC Community Policy Officer offering the competition entrants some guidance with their ideas.

The entries were outstanding to say the least and the five guest judges Melton Borough Mayor Cllr Pam Posnett, Council Leader Cllr Malise Graham, Nicky Stephen Director of Nicky Stephen Marketing, Tasha Phair Business Development Manager from Dynamic Merchandise and Catherine Hallinan MBC Arts Officer had a tough challenge on their hands to come up with the winner. The winning design and all the entries are to be showcased at our forthcoming Business Matters in Melton event (see advertisement below). It is important young people believe in themselves and receive the support and encouragement to make their ideas happen.

**If you would like to find out how you can get your business involved with young enterprise activity or wish to know a bit more about National Enterprise Week and the Make Your Mark Campaign please contact Alison Sheff on 01664 502421 or email [asheff@melton.gov.uk](mailto:asheff@melton.gov.uk)**



# Business Matters In Melton

Melton Borough Council's Business Newsletter

Winter 2007/2008

- WIRE
- E2E
- Business Rates Update
- Rural Business Advice Event
- Growing your business
- National Enterprise Week
- Melton Business Event
- Invest in the future



Welcome to the second issue of 'Business Matters in Melton', Melton Borough Council's business newsletter. This issue takes a look at some Borough and County wide initiatives as well as highlighting details of locally available business support services. As always, articles for the newsletter are welcome, as are suggestions for future topics or issues you would like to see covered. To submit further details please contact the Economic Regeneration team on 01664 502502 or email [mearnshaw@melton.gov.uk](mailto:mearnshaw@melton.gov.uk).

Melton Borough Council is pleased to announce.....

## OUR FIRST FREE EVENING BUSINESS EVENT

Planned for Thursday 21st February 2008  
at Melton Cattle Market (times to be confirmed)

With an emphasis on skills & training, there will be information regarding the new Diploma options, how to engage with local work experience & apprenticeship programmes as well as a wide range of information regarding training schemes and incentives and a variety of organisations that offer services to business.

With local produce to enjoy, guest speakers and a great opportunity to make valuable contacts, why not come along and see if your business can benefit.

**If you are interested in attending the above, please complete and return the enclosed form or contact Alison Sheff 01664 502421 or email [asheff@melton.gov.uk](mailto:asheff@melton.gov.uk)**

### In the next edition:

- Business Support Networks
- Training Provision
- Business Barometer

For further information about any of the issues in this newsletter, please contact the Economic Regeneration Team at Melton Borough Council, Social & Economic Development Department, Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0UL. Tel: 01664 502502.

Email: [mearnshaw@melton.gov.uk](mailto:mearnshaw@melton.gov.uk) Web: [www.melton.gov.uk](http://www.melton.gov.uk)



## E2E Help support your future workforce

**So what other options are there for those young people that do not feel ready to launch straight into work or training?**

2emerge Group at Brooksby Melton College run the e2e (entry to employment) programme which is designed to help get a young person ready for work, apprenticeships or further education. e2e offers a programme which is tailor made to try to meet the needs of an individual and the areas covered often include:

- The skills needed for work
- Building confidence
- Reading, writing and maths
- Work experience
- Gaining job skills and doing an NVQ or an NVQ equivalent.

2emerge are always keen to talk to businesses that are interested in offering a work placement or similar opportunity to one of their students.

**So to find out more about how you can do your bit to help develop the future workforce in the borough, contact the e2e programme on 01664 855408 and speak to Jan Box, Course Tutor.**



WIRE is a national organisation, with over 2000 members, which helps women in rural areas either to start up or expand a business. Annual membership is just £40 and includes: national quarterly magazine, Local Networks, regularly-updated website with member notice board, virtual network, free listing on the rural marketplace and business resources, access to help on legal issues, PR and media opportunities.

Alison Freer, Chair of the Leicestershire & Rutland branch of WIRE said "As well as providing a range of services, WIRE provides a great networking opportunity for women involved in enterprise and we would welcome more members from the Melton area"

**If you would like more information on WIRE please contact Alison on 01664 851682 email: [alison@retrospect.co.uk](mailto:alison@retrospect.co.uk) or visit the website [www.wireuk.org](http://www.wireuk.org)**

## Business Rates Update

### Changes to Empty Property Relief

The Government has recently reformed empty property Business rates relief in order to provide a strong incentive to bring empty business property back into use. As from 1st April 2008, most property that has been empty for more than three months – or, in the case of industrial property, for more than six months – will no longer receive relief from rates. After the initial three or six month rate-free period expires, empty property will be liable for 100% of the basic occupied business rate, unless it:

- Qualifies for the new zero rate provided by the Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007 – from 1st April 2008. This will affect the following types of property:

The rates liability of empty property that is held by a charity (and appears likely to be next used for charitable purposes), or that is held by a community amateur sports club and appears likely to be next used for the purposes of the club.

- Qualifies for an exemption from rates under the NNDR (unoccupied Property) Regulations – While the current permanent exemption for industrial property will be reduced to six months, the Government proposes to preserve the majority of the other existing exemptions unchanged.

**For further information: contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01664 502502**  
customerservices@melton.gov.uk.

# GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

**Are you looking to access finance to help support the growth of your business? Well if so, the following schemes may be of interest?**

## Invored:

- **Do you want investors to put money into your business?**
- **Do you find investors difficult to attract?**
- **Do you attract investors only to lose them to someone else?**

The biggest hurdle new companies have to getting investors interested in putting money into their business is that they JUST AREN'T READY FOR IT.

The Connect Midlands InvoRed programme prepares entrepreneurs to meet investors and KEEP THEM. The programme works with science, engineering and technology based companies (SETs) and high growth businesses seeking private equity from £15k seed funding to £3.5m institutional funding. It will teach you to speak their language and to be prepared for what they want, maximising your chances of securing vital funding.

**For further information, contact Connect Midlands on 01509 228702, Email: invoredeast@connectmidlands.org**

## Grant for Research & Development

- **Are you a newly formed or existing small to medium enterprise looking to undertake some R&D?**
- **Have you got a research project with commercial potential?**
- **Have you got a technically innovative idea which you would like to develop?**
- **Do you already have access to funds for some of the project costs?**

If so, you may qualify for a Research and Development grant from the East Midlands Development Agency. The Grant for Research & Development scheme is aimed at individuals planning to start up businesses in any part of the East Midlands and at small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) already operating within the region. The idea is to help businesses carry out projects they normally wouldn't undertake, and to encourage further private investment into them.

**For further information on the scheme visit [www.emda.org.uk/grd](http://www.emda.org.uk/grd) or contact the GRD team on 0115 988 8538.**

## East Midlands Early Growth Fund

The East Midlands Early Growth Fund is a new £5million venture capital fund that has been set up to invest in start-up and early-stage businesses based in the East Midlands.

The Fund, which is operated by E-Synergy, represents an excellent and exciting opportunity to support new businesses to grow, helping boost our economy and creating a thriving region where people want to live and work. The fund is specifically looking for companies who have clear growth potential and can successfully utilise an investment of between £20,000 and £200,000. The fund will take an equity stake in return for its investments.

**For further details of the Fund including, how it operates, which businesses are eligible and how to get involved as a private investor, visit [www.earlygrowthfund-em.co.uk/index.asp](http://www.earlygrowthfund-em.co.uk/index.asp) or ring 01327 856032**

**Further information on support available for growth potential businesses is available at [www.emda.org.uk/accesstofinance](http://www.emda.org.uk/accesstofinance)**

# INVEST IN THE FUTURE

## DEVELOPING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE IN MELTON

### Work Experience

Most schools and colleges will build into their curriculum a work related learning programme which could be for half a day a week up to 2 weeks block placement. For many learners this will be their first experience of a working environment. Employers who agree to take learners on work related learning programmes will receive a visit from an Employer Assessor to assist them with the planning of the work placement. The visit usually takes between 30 minutes to an hour.

The visit will establish that appropriate insurances are in place, a general health and safety audit will then follow simply checking the organisations commitment and understanding towards health, safety and welfare of existing employees. Following this it will be agreed with the employer which tasks the learner can undertake and a generic young person's risk assessment will reflect these tasks.



*Fiona Newbold on work experience at Dry Transfers Melton Mowbray pictured with Anthony Brewin*

Many employers are now reaping the benefits of being involved with these programmes, they work with learners to develop their skills and their potential within a skill area or sector. This offers the employer the opportunity to recruit without having to advertise or interview for vacant posts in the future, thus saving the organisation time and cost, with the knowledge that new recruits are committed to their role at the outset, as well as it being a positive outcome for the learner.

Employers also gain by giving back to and raising their profile within the local community and staff involved with the learner also gain a sense of achievement by being able to pass on skills and knowledge to the younger generation. Many industries at the moment are experiencing skills gaps, work experience can help employers to bridge and fill these gaps. Learners gain a better insight into the world of work as well as the expectations and demands that will be made of them once they have left full time education leading to a better prepared future workforce.

For many learners it helps them make better informed career choices and helps to motivate them into achieving better grades at school/college. There is a great sense of achievement for all those involved

**For further information: Tel: 0116 2407 270 or Email: [Jo.lees@leics-ebc.org.uk](mailto:Jo.lees@leics-ebc.org.uk)**

### Young Apprenticeships

Twenty four Year 10 students from King Edward VII School are undertaking a Young Apprenticeship course in Health and Social Care. The Course delivered by the school and managed by Leicestershire Education Business Company (LEBC) enables the students to get a taste of real work along side their school studies. LEBC is a registered charity which broker links between businesses, schools and the wider community to help develop and enthuse young people about work, through work and for work.



Virginia Toon, Programme Manager said, "With a much higher emphasis being placed on skills acquisition these students will be better prepared to take up employment opportunities in our rapidly changing economy." Students study for a GCSE in Health and Social Care as well as conducting 50 days work experience over a two year period.



*Sally Carter and Leena Patel at British Gas Business Young Apprenticeship Enterprise event 2007.*

Theresa Culpin, Head of Health and Social Care at King Edward VII School stated, "This programme gives students a realistic insight into working life as well as helping to clarify or confirm career choices and is proving to be very successful. The school would like to thank all the local employers for their support."

The Young Apprenticeship programme enables you as a company to become involved in shaping the work force of the future, by offering able and motivated students from King Edward VII School a work experience placement. If you feel your company could make a difference to a young person's future by offering a work experience placement in a Health, Early Years or Social Care environment, or would like some further information on the Young Apprenticeship Programme, please contact Rachel Harding at LEBC:

**Tel: 0116 2407000 or E-mail: [Rachel.harding@leics-ebc.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.harding@leics-ebc.org.uk)**

### Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships involve young people learning on the job, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money at the same time. Apprenticeships are usually for students post school level, aged 16 or above. All Apprenticeships lead to an NVQ level 2 or 3, and a technical certificate such as BTEC or City and Guilds. They also all include work based learning. Apprenticeship training allows the apprentices to gain the most up to date industry knowledge.

As a business, Apprenticeships are an opportunity to attract young people to your organisation. An investment in a young person's future through an Apprenticeship will enable you as a business, to shape the future workforce. Connexions Leicester Shire is a local service providing information, advice, guidance and support for 13-19 year olds across the city and county. Connexions also offers a free recruitment service and specialist advice about training and Apprenticeships to companies interested in advertising their vacancies to young people.

**For more information about what Connexions can do for your business or to arrange to meet with an Employer Liaison Officer. Tel: 0800 083 3788 or E-mail: [JOT@connexions-leics.org](mailto:JOT@connexions-leics.org)**



## Rural Business Advice Event

### Leicestershire Rural Business Advice Fair

Thursday 31st January 2008, 3pm – 8pm  
Waltham Village Hall, Goadby Rd, Waltham on the Wolds, nr Melton, Leics. LE14 4AG

## FREE business advice for new and existing rural businesses.

Over 20 specialist agencies offering free advice, support and grant information.

**For further information about the Business Advice Fair**

please contact Nicola Lees on  
0116 305 7986  
or alternatively  
e-mail: [regeneration@leics.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@leics.gov.uk)

