

PRESS RELEASE

Local businesses teach pupils how to land a job

One Hundred and sixty Year 10 pupils from Hemel Hempstead School took part in an Employability Skills event on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th July organised and run by Connect Dacorum. The pupils were in groups of around 10, and each group had a facilitator from local businesses or charity who had given up their morning to help the students with CV writing and interview skills.

All students were in the hall which instantly created a buzz. The event was interactive for the pupils – interviewing their facilitators, putting themselves in the mind of an employer looking at CVs for a new trainee graphic designer and critiquing them before moving on to looking in more detail at their own CVs and giving advice. The second session concentrated on interview skills with mock interviews and also a fun “speed interviewing” game. The pupils came away with lot of helpful feedback and advice directly from employers about what they look for in a CV, covering letter and throughout the interview process.

Cindy Withey, Manager of Connect Dacorum praised the pupils and facilitators for a great day “this is the second year Connect Dacorum has organised this at Hemel Hempstead School and it is great to see how much both the pupils and facilitators get out of the experience”.

The pupils also completed a feedback sheet at the end of the day with most of them saying that it was really helpful. One wrote “How important interview etiquette is to securing a job and how to create an effective CV”. Another said “Interviews are hard and scary but I will apply what I have learnt to gain confidence”.

Hemel Hempstead School said that “the feedback from students and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive and appreciative. Our senior leadership team were extremely impressed when they called in to see the event in progress, and they heard from students afterwards that the event was very useful.”

The facilitators came from a wide variety of backgrounds and businesses (full list see below), all willing to give up their time to help shape the future generation and pass on valuable advice.

Ruth George from Ruth George HR Consultants said “At the beginning of the session, many of the students in my group were not aware of what skills they had, but after talking to them and finding out about the many activities each of them were involved in both inside and outside of school, such as volunteering to teach football and refereeing on a Saturday, they were able to enhance their CVs.”

If there are any businesses who would like their staff to be involved and become a facilitator for these events next year please contact Cindy Withey at Connect Dacorum on cindy.withey@dacorum.gov.uk

Facilitators:

Carolyn Addison, Hospice of St Francis
Gordon Dickins, Tutor Doctor
Heather Donohue, First Point Consultants
Ruth George, Ruth George HR Consultants
Karen Gosen, Gaddesden Riding for the Disabled
Bob Harbour, Hemel Hempstead School Governor
Greg Hilton, Churchill Retirement Homes
Jane O’Gorman, Ten2Two Recruitment

Janice O'Neill, Business Buzz
John O'Neill, Hospitality Consultant
Sue Prowse, Dacorum Borough Council
Dave Pearce, Age UK Dacorum
Pennie Raynor, Dacorum Borough Council
Jean Rolfe, Business Consultant
Balinder Walia, Hemel Hempstead School Governor

ENDS.

About Connect Dacorum

Connect Dacorum is a partnership between the business, public and voluntary sectors that actively participates in creating a better quality of life for all in the Dacorum and surrounding area.

We provide information and expertise on community involvement opportunities for organisations of all sizes and support our members in the delivery of their Corporate Social Responsibility objectives.

We are a project of Community Action Dacorum

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About Community Action Dacorum

Community Action Dacorum is a charity that provides a circle of support to the local community. As a council for voluntary service, we believe in bringing people together to achieve more in their communities and improve quality of life

We:

- Support voluntary organisations and community groups at the early stages of their development
- Provide funding advice, representation and a payroll service to help them grow and flourish
- Deliver services and projects that support local individuals, businesses and community groups

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