

Enterprise Adviser Profile

VIC HOBSON

MANAGING DIRECTOR—THE MUDLARKS COMMUNITY, HERTFORD.

EA for AMWELL VIEW SCHOOL (SEN)

Mudlarks is a Hertford based charity supporting vulnerable young people and adults. Through our horticultural and enterprise initiatives we provide therapy, learning and meaningful work opportunities in the community which help to build confidence, improve wellbeing, increase self-worth and develop work related skills.



WHY DID YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ENTERPRISE ADVISER?

I have extensive experience of working with a variety of schools, and wanted to share my knowledge of school enterprises, the successes and how local businesses and communities can help. I did not really envisage there being any advantages to myself or Mudlarks; it was a role that I undertook to benefit the school.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT BEING AN ENTERPRISE ADVISER?

I enjoy working with the staff to develop new ideas and be creative around how to build up school enterprises. I know that teachers and support staff in schools are pressed for time, so being able to lend a hand and research ideas for the school is very rewarding.

WHAT HAVE YOU ACHIEVED IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Amwell View has started to bring their careers programme to pupils throughout the school, and not just to those in the most senior classes. They have started a school shop in the village, which is very successful, and have included the whole school in it's development.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT PLANNED WITH YOUR SCHOOL?

We continue to try to develop the benchmarks to work for children who have very complex needs.

TOP TIP FOR OTHER ENTERPRISE ADVISERS?

Remember that teachers are busy! Don't be surprised if meetings are cancelled at the last minute, and try to be as flexible as possible.

Offer your help to research and develop ideas. Don't bombard teachers with ideas, but take the initiative to actually develop those ideas yourself.

Go into school to work alongside teachers with online progress monitoring, benchmarks etc. Two people sitting together working through the forms can be less time consuming and often highlights the good work that is being done in the school.

ABOUT THE ENTERPRISE ADVISER NETWORK:

The Enterprise Adviser Network is a national Career & Enterprise Company programme that pairs volunteers from local businesses, known as Enterprise Advisers, with schools, to help them expand their careers provision and engage more widely with local employers. The programme is delivered locally by Hertfordshire LEP and YC Hertfordshire, with 102 local schools and 84 Enterprise Advisers currently signed up.

If you would like to become an Enterprise Adviser for a school in Hertfordshire please contact:
Gareth.dace@hertfordshirelep.co.uk

BECOMING AN ENTERPRISE ADVISER - FAQs

WHO CAN BECOME AN ENTERPRISE ADVISER?

EAs can be employees of an organisation or individuals who are self-employed or retired. You must have a 'can-do' attitude; ultimately we are looking for people who have a passion for developing young people's aspirations and their understanding of the world of work and the opportunities available to them.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

We will work around your availability and capacity. We would expect to schedule at least one meeting per term between you and your school (i.e. 3 times per year) and there are likely to be action points arising which may result in you attending other events at the school. We hope to match EAs with schools for a minimum period of 12 months.

WHAT WILL I ACTUALLY DO?

It is expected that an EAs will work with their school to help develop a strategy to enhance it's Careers Programme. Your specific input will depend on your own skills, experience and resources but you will be guided throughout by your Enterprise Co-ordinator (EC) who will attend all meetings with you.

WHAT WILL OUR FOCUS BE ON?

All schools are working towards a framework within their Careers Education known as **The Gatsby Benchmarks**. These are the 8 benchmarks schools should be looking to meet by August 2020 (as directed by the Department for Education), which have been adopted by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

All schools have completed an online self-assessment (Compass) which maps their progress against each of the 8 benchmarks and this provides a very clear focus for the areas they require support with. Your EC will have a copy of your school's Compass Report and can discuss this with you in advance of your initial school meeting.

WILL MY COMPANY BE EXPECTED TO OFFER WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS?

No, although any work experience placements, workplace visits or greater employer engagement your company can offer (where appropriate) would be welcome.

WHO WILL I BE MEETING WITH AT THE SCHOOL?

As part of Government's Careers Strategy (December 2017) and subsequent statutory guidelines for Careers Education, all schools must have a designated Careers Leader. This is the individual we will try to schedule meetings with. Ideally a member of the school's senior leadership team will also be present, or at least made aware of progress. Your EC will discuss the particular situation at your school prior to your first meeting.

DO I NEED TO COMPLETE A DBS CHECK?

Yes—to enhanced level. This will be processed and paid for by Hertfordshire County Council.

