

Enterprise Adviser Profile

NICCI SMITH
TALENT PROGRAMME MANAGER
GLAXOSMITHKLINE
Enterprise Adviser FOR PINWOOD SEN SCHOOL



WHY DID YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ENTERPRISE ADVISER?

To share some of my experience with schools and to give something back to my local community. To foster good relationships between schools and business and to raise awareness of my organisation within the community.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT BEING AN ENTERPRISE ADVISER?

On a personal level the role has brought some incredibly enriching experiences where I have been able to meet with and interact with teachers and students. On a professional level it has been amazing to develop our relationships in the local community and to share some of GSK's resources.

WHAT HAVE YOU ACHIEVED IN YOUR SCHOOL?

An employer engagement plan has been created and implemented, whereby several different employers from different sectors engage directly with the school at planned, annual employability events. This includes training sessions, and work experience on-site at the school. The school children have special educational needs and the sessions are tailored to meet their needs.

Members of the school staff, including the Headteacher, have visited my place of work and given us educational talks on employing people with learning disabilities.

A GSK Apprentice with learning disabilities presents each year to students and parents at the school's post-16 event, about his career journey.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT PLANNED WITH YOUR SCHOOL?

Continuing and sustaining the above activities.

TOP TIPS FOR OTHER ENTERPRISE ADVISERS?

Building a good relationship with the Headteacher or a senior member of staff is vital for success. And going into the school to observe how it works operationally is important too, especially if you haven't been into a school for a long time. Meeting students and staff provides a sense of what could work when making plans. Listening to them and building a pragmatic plan: staff are busy, resources are tight so what is implemented needs to be sensible and sustainable.

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

Hertfordshire
Local Enterprise Partnership
PERFECTLY PLACED FOR BUSINESS

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

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.

