

## **EMPLOYERS URGED TO SUPPORT RADICAL APPROACH TO LEARNING**

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**Employers in the Taunton area are being encouraged to get involved in a radical new learning programme aimed at producing tomorrow's top sports coaches and managers.**

The Young Apprenticeship programme – run by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) – is targeted at talented teenagers between the ages of 14 and 16 who want to achieve vocational qualifications alongside their academic schooling.

Twenty five students from three schools in Taunton – The Castle, St Augustine of Canterbury and Ladymead – will begin a two-year Young Apprenticeship in Sport Management, Leadership and Coaching in September.

Alongside their school work they will spend a day a week working towards Level 2 qualifications.

They will also spend 50 days over the course of the two-year programme working with local employers, such as leisure centres, fitness companies or local sports clubs.

To explain more about how employers can benefit from the programme a “dine and discuss evening” has been organised for **Tuesday 23 June, starting at 6pm**. The event will be held at Oake Manor Golf Club.

Paul Collins, Assistant Headteacher at The Castle School, said today: “The success of this programme depends largely on the support we get from local employers so we are hoping that a lot of them will come along to hear more about what the Young Apprenticeship can offer.”

Representatives from the LSC and SkillsActive will be at the event to explain in detail what is involved and answer questions.

Trish Taylor, LSC Area Director for Dorset and Somerset, said the Young Apprenticeship programme was already being enthusiastically received by young people and also local employers.

She added: "It offers a form of learning that employers have been asking for and we have had no shortage of young people volunteering to take part.

"Young apprentices learn the practical skills required by employers while studying for qualifications which specifically relate to that particular industry."

Employers interested in attending the "dine and discuss" event are asked to contact Paul Collins either by telephone on 01823 274073 or 07793 982550 or by email at [pcollins@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:pcollins@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

## **ENDS**

Further information contact: Sue Bradbury (LSC public relations) on 01872 863863 or Paul Collins (Castle School) as above.

### Background Details on Young Apprenticeships:

- Launched in September 2004, there are currently around 3,000 pupils on Young Apprenticeship programmes across a variety of sectors.
- The Young Apprenticeship in sports management, leadership and coaching was launched in September 2005.
- Over the last decade, Apprenticeship places have also risen from 75,000 to nearly 240,000, with more than 42,000 young people at 13,000 companies currently on work-based training programmes in the South West.
- The achievement rate among apprentices is 63 per cent, more than double that of five years ago.

**NOTES TO EDITORS:** THE LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers