

Parrot Fashion

supporting young people in developing enterprise capability

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So here we are in the 3rd term of the year and no doubt thoughts are turning to planning for the delivery of enterprise skills for the next academic year. What room is there for progression and improvement on the learning from this year? How are you planning on really embedding and consolidating your learning and activities?

I hope that if you have a chance to read on you might be inspired to log on to find out more about PET, **the enterprise skills assessment tool**, to help provide increased engagement from teachers and a thorough measurement of the learning within the young people. If you have a few moments then you can read on for some useful information or log on to www.petonline.org.uk to find out more & sign up for a free trial. Ideally you could try PET out this term ready to roll out & benefit in the new academic year.

Best wishes

Amanda

Enterprise Learning Gathers Momentum

Prior to an upcoming enterprise strategy White Paper, the organisation Make Your Mark published their recommendations for how to make a more 'enterprising Britain' in January. The report gives a good outlook for enterprise learning, pointing to "a marked increase in youth enterprise participation, aspirations and activity".

Make Your Mark summarise recent research findings and point out that;

- 48% of Year 11 students report having taken part in a mini-enterprise project
- attitudes to entrepreneurship are most positive in the 18-24 and 25-34 year old age groups
- the proportion of 16-24 year olds considering starting their own business increased from 14.4% in 2003 to 17.5% in 2006
- the entrepreneurial activity rate for 18-24 year olds increased from 2.7% in 2002 to 3.8% in 2006
- the proportion of total business start-ups accounted for by 16-24 year olds increased from 6.5% in 2003 to 8% in 2007

However, we are still 50% more likely than US citizens to be put off starting a company by fear of failure, and business start-up rates are well behind.

Of course, those of us with a passion for enterprise know that it isn't just about starting a business. However, these statistics are reassuring measures which show that our schools are supporting the development of ambitious, skilled risk takers, prepared for a fast-changing world

Schools for Dragons

Self-made millionaire, and occasional 'dragon', Peter Jones from the BBC's Dragon's Den programme has announced the establishment of the UK's first national Enterprise Academy.

The Academy will be launched in January 2009 with a pilot intake of 50 students aged 16-19, before opening its doors to 200 more in September of the same year. The Academy, to be based near London, will be followed by a



Manchester based school. Peter Jones' ambition is to encourage and practically support entrepreneurial career choices.

Central to the curriculum will be the 'soft skills' of enterprise. PET have been in discussions with Peter's educational team about how these skills might effectively be taught, nurtured and assessed at the new Academy. **We would love to hear from you with your ideas on how this brand new 'enterprise curriculum' might be structured and taught.**

One idea which perhaps should be considered is the adoption of the Hogwarts school motto from the Harry Potter series of books; 'Never tickle a sleeping dragon'!

Question and Answer

Question

PET looks a really good tool but I am worried that it will create a lot of extra work, what would you suggest?

Answer

PET is very easy to use and when you purchase the tool you receive a user guide to help you with any queries that you may have.

PET is used to record the current enterprise activity within your school, you will be surprised at how many projects and activities, whether part of a normal lesson or an off time table day, that your school currently runs. This is a tool that all departments across the school can use to record that activity and help each student build up a portfolio of their enterprise capabilities. We are not suggesting that you need to create new activities, just record the ones that you already do.

It takes no more that 10 minutes to set up an activity within PET and once you are familiar with the tool this will be drastically reduced and as PET is a web based tool it is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Do you have a question about using PET, or about enterprise learning in general? Please email us on marie.siford@perfecteducation.org.uk

Look out for more tips for using PET in next month's issue of Parrot Fashion!

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