

"Inspirational" event supports tomorrow's entrepreneurs

Schools are being invited to register their interest in an event specifically arranged to develop and support the entrepreneurial skills of their sixth form pupils. The 2020 Bryanston Business Conference will provide pupils from schools and sixth form colleges right across the region with a unique opportunity to feed off the energy and passion of visionary business leaders from many sectors of industry – from fashion and beauty to property and technology.

The annual event has continued to grow in stature and popularity since it was first introduced in 2013. According to the event organiser, Amanda Lovejoy, Development Manager at Bryanston School, Dorset, the conference provides an important opportunity for budding entrepreneurs from schools to develop their business ideas and skills alongside respected and inspirational mentors from the world of industry.

"Far from adopting a conventional format, the Bryanston Business Conference provides pupils with a challenging but exciting hands-on experience to work with highly successful business men and women – as well as

pupils from other schools – to help develop and refine their commercial awareness and innovation skills," says Lovejoy. "It's a very motivational event that is unlike anything else the young participants will have encountered in their coursework and it really does open their eyes to the possibilities and realities of business life."

The 2020 Bryanston Business Conference will be on Friday 19th June. In previous years, mentors have included familiar names from the world of industry, including Julia Hailes MBE, Sebastian Conran, Claire Dresser, Sophie Harley, Justin Urquhart-Stewart, Adam Greenwood, Tom Honey and Alison Kyle. Many previous mentors will be returning for the 2020 business conference at Bryanston alongside other business leaders from a diverse range of industries.

The Conference takes place at Bryanston School and comprises a series of workshops with the mentors working with teams of pupils to develop new ethical business products or services. The event culminates with each mentor's selected team giving a short presentation to all pupils



and mentors, with all attendees then voting for their favourite idea. The three winning teams then receive prize money for their selected charity. The winners at the 2019 Conference raised £500 for Children on the Edge, £250 for Air Ambulance UK and £100 for WasteAid.

"It is a pleasure to have the opportunity of working with tomorrow's visionaries and entrepreneurs," says Adam Greenwood, a technology futurist and regular mentor at the Bryanston Business Conference. "The motivations and refreshingly different approach to business of the next generation really do

provide an indication of the shape of things to come, as they are so mindful of the impact of their ideas on people and the environment. The Conference helps to nurture and encourage such a focused mindset. And our role as mentors is to show what's needed to turn the spark of a good idea into something that really can make a difference while also providing a fulfilling and rewarding career."

Any school keen for their pupils to attend this year's Bryanston Business Conference should register their interest at the earliest opportunity by contacting Amanda Lovejoy at development@bryanston.co.uk.

Picture: Leading jewellery designer, Sophie Harley (third from right), with the winning team of West Country sixth formers at the 2019 Bryanston Business Conference



Female Leaders initiative

More than 400 pupils from 8 schools across Plymouth gathered at Plymouth College late last term to join an historic walk from the school to the Nancy Astor Statue unveiling on the Hoe.

The event had been coordinated by Plymouth College staff and students who had been preparing for a number of weeks. Said Ann Chubb, History Teacher and organiser: "Lady Astor changed the course of history by becoming the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons after she was elected MP for Plymouth Sutton in November

1919 and her historic achievement paved the way for the fairer democracy we see in Britain today."

The Nancy Astor unveiling marks the launch of Plymouth College's Future Female Leaders initiative that includes a series of lectures and workshops to celebrate and empower the female leaders of tomorrow. Speakers are already confirmed for 2020 and the initiative promises to be a real success, with some of the city's most influential women imparting their expertise and advice.

Time for tea

Reception children from Ranby House School, Nottinghamshire, entertained some special visitors just before Christmas as retired residents from Charter Court were hosted at the school for afternoon tea.

The event was organised by Reception teacher Adam Newton who firmly believes in the benefit of bringing the generations together.

"There have been countless studies – all pointing towards a positive impact for both groups," said Adam.

"For children, it helps develop their social skills; teaching them to slow down, to listen and to be patient. For older people, many studies link social interaction with decreased loneliness, as well as incredible physical benefits as well. The sharing of knowledge between these two groups is fascinating to watch and in many ways can teach tolerance and understanding that goes both ways."

Jane Jackson, House Manager at Charter Court, said: "It's such a lovely idea. They were all very keen to meet with the children. Everyone was excited and looking forward to it. We have a range of ages of residents who went along, from those in their 70s up to who one lady who is 94 years old!"

The children of Ranby House were excited to greet their guests, serving cake and biscuits and sharing a board game or two.

