

Queens Park Community School, Brent – Example of Best Practice

QPCS is a Business and Enterprise school. It has been recognised by Ofsted as providing Business and Enterprise excellence through the curriculum. It has made a commitment to developing a wide range of learning activities both in school and beyond that embed both business and enterprise principles.

With Business and Enterprise as a specialism, the school encourages students to use enterprise skills: problem solving, team working, working independently, negotiation, communication and setting challenging targets. These are some of the necessary skills that they feel prepare students to make a significant contribution to the world of work or higher education. Each year group has at least one day per year dedicated to enterprise education, and every pupil has a work experience placement in Yr 10.

Enterprise skills are taught across the curriculum and are implicit throughout the ethos of the school. This played a major part in the curriculum being rated “Outstanding” by Ofsted in 2008. Every department in the school is audited to ensure that they adopt the Enterprise rationale. Each lesson plan has to contain the following three elements:

- Enterprise knowledge and understanding delivered through lessons
- Enterprise skills delivered through lessons
- Enterprise attitudes delivered through lessons

A copy of the school’s 2013 Audit is attached below detailing how each of the above elements was addressed in each subject.

In the sixth form they run a ‘Young Enterprise’ BTEC course as part of their Business Faculty. It encourages entrepreneurial skills through group projects to design and market products. For example, one group of sixth form students worked on an alternative school uniform, and building on all the above skills, negotiated with a range of suppliers and marketing outlets, costing materials, developing a unique selling point etc.

The school employs a member of staff for Community Liaison. One part of this role has been to develop an extensive network of businesses and employers both locally and across London who will support the school and students.