

Stepan links schools' careers education to the Chemical world

On the 6th of October, Stepan facilitated a visit from 10 teachers from a local high school (All Saints Catholic College in Dukinfield).

The event was driven by George Forrest, Plant Manager; he and Viv Dennis, HR Manager, are both Enterprise Advisors within schools in the Tameside area. By way of explanation, Enterprise Advisors are business volunteers who work in senior roles. They volunteer their time to help bridge the gap between the world of work and education, working with the Careers Leader and wider senior leaders of the school or college to create opportunities for young people.

The main purpose of this visit was to highlight the industry, the very real issue posed by an ageing workforce, the kind of positions offered on site, and what Stepan can do, to link to their everyday lessons in school.

Who can be an Enterprise Advisor?

The key role of Enterprise Advisor requires the following from any individual interested in being involved:

- A business professional who comes from any industry sector or professional background, be that employed, self-employed or recently employed.
- Dedicated to making a lasting impact on the future outcomes of young people.
- Willing to volunteer their time to achieve positive change in local schools and colleges, using core skills including relationship building and being analytical.

They do this by working with school leaders in helping them work towards the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks.



What are the Gatsby benchmarks?

Since they were first piloted, the Gatsby benchmarks have been adopted as national policy and all secondary schools and colleges in England are using them as the framework to guide their careers programmes, they are a statutory requirement for maintained schools, academies, further education colleges and sixth form colleges.

Providing high-quality career guidance in schools and colleges is vital to young people so they can make well-informed decisions on their future.

The eight Gatsby benchmarks of Good Career Guidance are:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

What are the benefits of becoming an Enterprise Advisor?

There are a great many benefits to becoming an Enterprise Advisor, both personally and professionally. However, our list below highlights a few of the ones we consider to be the most important:

- Undertake strategic planning in a new context
- Develop your skills in communication and strategy development
- Support your local school or college to deliver world class careers guidance to their students.
- Build strong working relationships with your local school or college and provide insight into your organisation and industry.
- Join a national and local network to develop your own skills.
- Give back to your local community.
- Better understand the education sector and the challenges faced.

For more information on the eight Gatsby benchmarks of Good Career Guidance visit www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance

www.stepan.com