



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until: 12pm Wednesday 12 November 2014

Inspiring Women in Fashion

On 12 November the Editor of **British Vogue magazine, Alexandra Shulman** and **Miriam González Durántez**, Partner at law firm Dechert LLP and wife of the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, will take part in an **Inspiring Women campaign** 'career speed networking' event with 19 other successful women and 100 girls at St Saviour's & St Olave's School, New Kent Road, London, SE1 4AN.

Aim of the wider Inspiring Women campaign

The aim of this event is to **demystify the ever popular fashion industry** and show **the wide range of roles to which young girls today can aspire – from design, to manufacturing, to marketing, to retail**. Looking behind the glitz and glamour to the real jobs available to the enterprising.

In doing we also hope to encourage thousands of other women to join the Inspiring Women campaign and **volunteer to pledge 'one hour a year to talk to girls' in a state school near home or work** about their life experience, job and career route. The campaign is open to all women, whatever their job, included those who work full or part-time, retired workers and volunteers. They can register online in 2 minutes: <http://www.inspiringthefuture.org/about/inspiring-women-campaign.aspx>

The following women in the British fashion industry will be 'career speed networking' with the girls:

Alexandra Shulman	Editor, British Vogue
Kate Blythe	Editorial and Content Director, Matchesfashion.com
Alex Brownsell	Hairdresser, Owner of Bleach Salon/ Bleach products
Essie Button	UK Beauty Blogger
Miranda Cantacuzene Speransky	Model agent, Storm
Mariya Dykalo	Creative Director, Aspinal
Susie Forbes	Principal, Condé Nast College
Gina Foster	Milliner
Nina Godfrey	EA to Artistic Director at Tamara Mellon, former Editorial Coordinator at Vogue
Jo Hales	Head of Buying, Marks & Spencer
Mary Homer	Managing Director, Topshop
Tammy Kane	CEO, Christopher Kane
Alison Loehnis	President, Net-a-Porter
Daisy Lowe	Model
Christina Lundberg	Head of Womenswear Design, Superdry

Hannah Martin
Tatiana Ohnyeva

Amy Powney
Caroline Rush
Tabitha Webb
Tracy Woodward

Make-up artist for Bobbi Brown
Head of Client Relations, Harrods (Personal Shopping Role
networking)
Creative Director, Mother of Pearl
CEO, British Fashion Council
Designer
Beauty entrepreneur and owner of Tracey Woodward
Associates

Alexandra Shulman, Editor of British Vogue and one of the career speed networkers, says:

"The opportunities for working in the fashion industry are huge but it's often hard to find out about them. This is the perfect opportunity for people who work not only in the high profile side of the business but in some of the lesser known spheres to share their experience and tell the girls about jobs they might not know existed or that how they would pursue them. It's an industry which has a relatively high proportion of female talent and hopefully this event will be both inspiring and useful for the pupils who are wondering what career they might have, and how to take the first steps."

Miriam González Durántez, Partner at law firm Dechert LLP and wife of the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg says: *"Fashion is an industry worth £26 billion to the UK economy and therefore it generates plenty of job opportunities. Fashion is the top designer, the photographer and the model, but it is also the person who dresses windows at the store, the scientist who discovers a new product formula, the CFO of a retail company, the retailer, the buyer ... This event is a perfect occasion to expose the girls to the wide range and variety of careers within the fashion sector".*

Headteacher, Catherine May, explains: *"Working with 'Inspiring Women' is a perfect match for our school. We have students who are ambitious and teachers who help them achieve their potential, and 'Inspiring Women' brings a wealth of experience through role models who broaden horizons and open up a world of new possibilities. This event is a unique experience that will last long in our memories and may well change some lives!"*

The Inspiring Women Campaign aims to bring together women - wherever they live, whatever they do and whatever their background - and girls from a wide range of state schools. Its objective is to provide the girls with the chance to talk to a wide range of women from all walks of life, from apprentices to CEOs, archaeologists to zoologists. We already have 11,400 amazing women pledging an hour a year!

MEDIA CONTACTS

For media enquiries please contact Carol Glover, Communications Manager, Education and Employers Taskforce on 07939 061 850 or email carol.glover@educationandemployers.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

What is the Inspiring Women campaign?

The national **Inspiring Women campaign** launched on 17 October 2013 and we already have over 11,400 amazing women ready to talk with girls in England. Our ambition is to see 15,000 women from a wide range of occupations going into state schools, over the next year, talking to 250,000 young women. Since the 2012 launch of our Inspiring the Future programme, 75% of state secondary schools have signed up as a means of finding volunteers to talk with pupils about jobs and careers. **Pledge one hour a year to change young lives by volunteering to talk with girls in school.**

Inspiring the Future

Inspiring the Future was launched in England in summer 2012. Over 75% of state schools have registered together with 17,000 volunteers from 4,000 organisations. The aim is to ring about a significant culture change so that it becomes commonplace that young women wherever they live and whatever their social background, get the chance to meet a wide range of women doing different jobs - from Apprentices to CEOs, archaeologists to zoologists

Who is behind *Inspiring the Future: Inspiring Women*

The Education and Employers Taskforce was launched as a small independent charity in October 2009, and has 12 staff. Its aim is to ensure that every school and college has effective partnerships with employers which provide young people with the inspiration, motivation, knowledge, skills and opportunities they need to help them achieve their potential and so secure our national prosperity. The Taskforce's Partnership Board comprises the leaders of the main representative organisations from education and employment. For details: www.educationandemployers.org
The Education and Employers Taskforce runs the free, national *Inspiring the Future*.

About the school

St Saviour's and St Olave's is a successful inner city Church of England 11-18 school for girls. The school has an excellent track record of academic success and of preparing students for top universities and careers.