



Media Release – embargoed until 8am on Thursday 19th November 2015

Lord Nash visits Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs with Inspiring the Future

Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, is visiting The Charles Dickens School, Broadstairs in Kent on 19th November with Inspiring the Future, run by national education charity Education & Employers. The purpose is to inspire students to consider careers in the jobs, professions and sectors that they may not be aware of.

Inspiring the Future volunteers - including Lord Nash - working in a diverse range of jobs will do career speed networking with the students. The event will see 13 volunteers talking face-to-face with 100 Year 10 students aged 14 - 15.

It is part of the Education & Employers charity's national campaign designed to raise and broaden the aspirations of our young people in disadvantaged coastal towns. Many will be familiar with the problems facing young people in disadvantaged coastal towns – poor attainment, low aspirations, high unemployment and a sense of marginalisation. We need to take action to ensure that young people growing up in these areas get the best possible start in life, aware of the breadth of opportunities available and are encouraged and supported in their ambitions.

Broadstairs is a coastal town in Thanet therefore it suffers from seasonal unemployment and high deprivation levels. Thanet was poorly rated at 295th out of 324 districts in 2010 by a BBC commissioned study about economic resilience in the downturn. Unemployment levels are nearly twice the South East of England as a whole, and as a result a great deal of planning is being done to encourage more businesses to relocate to the district.

Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, said: "It's invaluable for young people in state schools to meet people doing different jobs and careers and be able to hear real world perspectives. Too often there is an information gap between the real demands of employers and what young people know about careers and where their aspirations lie. Programmes like Inspiring the Future can help schools prepare pupils for their next steps into adult life whether their choice of university course, apprenticeship or career direction."

Career speed networkers include:

Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools
Emma Hargreaves, Research Fellow, University of Kent
Jemma Morgan, Occupational Therapist
Abbie Smith, Owner A Hint of Print
Dr Mark Speller, NHS General Practitioner
Dr Inbal Livne, Museum Head of Collections
Robin Parkinson, Santander UK plc, Solicitor

Cal Harris, W&B Publishing
Robert Onion, Chairman Circle (brand agency)
Joanne Monk, Deputy Director of HR, London South Bank University
Chris Kempf, MD/Founder Kempf Ltd (digital agency)
Clare Dunning, University of Kent, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics
Amy Redmond, Ex Radio 1 producer/event producer

Event running order

09.30 – Opening remarks from Kim Stoner, Executive Headteacher, The Charles Dickens School
09.35 – Employer introductions
09.45 – 10.40 - Career speed networking event with Lord Nash
10.40 - Closing remarks.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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

Tweet about the event using #inspiringthefuture and follow us @Edu_Employers

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Inspiring the Future

Inspiring the Future was launched in England in summer 2012. Nearly 80% of state secondary schools have registered together with 25,000 volunteers from over 5,000 organisations. Teachers have sent over 100,000 invitations to individual volunteers asking them to visit schools to talk with pupils. The aim is to ring about a significant culture change so that it becomes commonplace that young people wherever they live and whatever their social background, get the chance to meet a wide range of people doing different jobs - from Apprentices to CEOs, archaeologists to zoologists.

What is Career Speed Networking?

Speed career networking helps students gain insights into different careers and raises student aspirations. It is informal and gives students the opportunity to meet a wide range of people from different sectors, who are at different stages in their careers, from apprentices to CEO's of big companies. Students are sat in small groups with a volunteers and are given the opportunity to ask the volunteer questions about their educational route, jobs and sectors. Example questions the students might ask are - What did you learn at school that you find useful at work? What advise would you give somebody my age thinking about their career? How you found activities outside of school teach you any useful skills for work? Approximately every 10 minutes the volunteers will move onto the next table to meet with a new group of students.

You can see an example of a previous speed career networking event here -

https://www.flickr.com/photos/edu_employers/albums/72157651560492722

(Ends)