

Dear Head Teacher

Employer Engagement

As part of Developing Edinburgh's Young Workforce (DYW), I write to you today about how to **encourage, engage and promote employer partnerships; including STEM**. Below are two strategies I have developed, to help guide your school and cluster through these developments; i.e. a CPD opportunity and this Resource Pack.

Developing the Young Workforce: Fostering Business Partnerships CPD (CF2278)

At a recent 16+ DHT meeting, the Market Place was presented and discussed, and it was agreed that this CPD was essential; hence I have worked towards this. Workshops are directed at primary, secondary and special schools, which will be starting in August, with another two during September and October. Initially three are organised, however if more are needed, I will provide them.

The workshop will be examining:

- How to use and engage with 'The Market Place'
- How to engage with employers to form partnerships
- How to develop and maintain an Employability Cluster

I strongly recommend that a representative from your school attend to ensure you are informed, as without this your school may not be able to access opportunities.

Employability Cluster Meetings

Opportunities need to be available for schools and business to engage, not just within secondary but primary and special schools too. To facilitate this, schools are advised that 'Employability Clusters' need to be established. The aim of these clusters is to allow planning of skills progression, associated employer engagement, leading to benefits for your students and cluster schools.

I have created this pack which contains resources that will help your school and cluster work toward forming employer partnerships. These resources will also be shared on Office 365, once available. The pack contains:

- an information sheet that outlines a possible business event that can be hosted,
- CD resources for three meetings; including videos and DTS documents,
- a guide on how to move meetings forward, and
- a guide on how to manage meetings, along with suggested topics for discussion.

As we move forward through the DYW agenda, setting up the basics is very important and these options start the process. Through utilising resources and partnerships, such as Career Ready (formerly Career Academies), more effectively, your school and cluster can drive forward with the employer engagement agenda.

If you have any questions or would like items clarified please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



John Schmidt
Employability Manager