



News Release – 03 October 2017

A dynamic, interactive skills event for West Kent schools

1250 students aged 14-19 from across West Kent will have the opportunity to attend the **West Kent Skillsfest 2017**. This exciting event will be taking place at Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells on 10 October 2017. Schools from across the area are preparing their young people to make the most of the interaction with employers and the specialist workshops available

The event aims to inspire the young people of the area as they plan their future aspirations. The event is a partnership initiative between West Kent schools, AXA PPP, The West Kent Partnership and EBP Kent.

West Kent Skillsfest is part of the activities of the West Kent Enterprise Adviser Network which works with schools on the delivery of activities and information that promotes career paths and employability activities and helps schools engage with businesses in their local community.

The response from employers in West Kent has been phenomenal and companies from a wide range of sectors will be providing stalls and interactive activities to showcase and inform students of the opportunities and progression available.

West Kent Skillsfest is by invitation only. Thanks are due to 75 employers and exhibitors who have made considerable effort to bring quality, inspiration and vitality to the range of skills required in the workplace today.

Catherine Brunger, CSR and Education Manager at AXA PPP Healthcare says

AXA PPP healthcare is proud to support this event and be able to provide such a valuable opportunity for our local schools. We recognise the important role business plays in the development of our young people and we are delighted to be involved.

Nicolas Heslop, Chairman of the West Kent Partnership, says

The West Kent Partnership is delighted to support this exciting event for young people in the area. The West Kent Partnership is committed to supporting skills development and providing opportunities for our future workforce to engage with the world of work.



For more information, please contact Anne McNulty, CEO, at EBP Kent, Tel. 01843 572520.

Notes to Editors

AXA PPP Healthcare

AXA PPP has built up an education programme over the last six years which includes our Work Inspiration programme and all manner of work related learning activity. It is important to us that we support all young people in our community and if you would like to find out more about how we could support your school please contact Cath Brunger at Communityandeducation@axa-ppp.co.uk.

[The West Kent Partnership](#)

The West Kent Partnership is a joint initiative between local business, councils, and other partners and operates as the strategic economic partnership covering the local authority areas of Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling. The Partnership addresses economic, skills, transport and infrastructure issues to create a stronger West Kent economy.

[The Careers and Enterprise Company \(CEC\)](#)

CEC is a government initiative to help address the gaps in enterprise education. The West Kent Enterprise Adviser Network is match funded by The West Kent Partnership and West Kent College. Each network is designed to comprise 20 volunteer business advisers matched to 20 schools. Advisers help shape the future workforce by advising school leaders on how to develop strategies to create long-term partnerships with local businesses and link them into their own business networks. The West Kent EAN is developed and managed by simon.harris@sevenoaks.gov.uk who ensures that all the experience, contacts and innovation from advisers and schools within the network is harnessed and shared for the benefit of the local area.

EBP Kent

Education Business Partnership Kent works with employers to bring high quality engagement activities to schools preparing young people for the world of work and their individual choice of progression. EBP Kent designed and delivered the West Kent Skills Event for the first time eight years ago and has delivered it every year since. 2017 is special welcoming the return of 'AXA PPP' and the new partner 'West Kent Partnership'