



BECOME AN ADVISER!!

Offering continuous professional development opportunities within employment

Young Enterprise is an educational charity founded in the UK in 1963, which runs a range of business and enterprise education programmes for over 280,000 young people each year, with the support of 3000+ businesses, and 11,500+ volunteers. It was based on the US 'Junior Achievement' model which was founded in 1919. Young Enterprise Europe was founded in 1977, and the programmes now run in most EU countries.

The Young Enterprise Company Programme, is a voluntary programme that brings education and business into partnership. Students (age 15-19) volunteer, and set up and run their own company. They appointing a board of directors, raising share capital, make and market a product or service of their choice and write a report and accounts at the end of their year – which runs during term time from September/October to Easter.

To facilitate this each **Young Enterprise** company is supported by one or ideally, two volunteer business advisers who act as mentors, offering the benefit of their business skills and experience. They attend weekly board meetings at the school or college during term time, which in general, take place at the end of the school day and last about one to one and a half hours. The adviser is supported by a dedicated 'link teacher' - experienced teachers who help facilitate the programme and student's learning.

The students have to learn how to work in a team (while pulling their weight individually!), organise themselves, conduct meetings, manage finances, make presentations, and so on. The idea is that it's their enterprise – living up to the **Young Enterprise** motto "Learning by Doing". **Young Enterprise** provides structure, briefing and guidance materials, and runs a number of local skill workshops and events during the year for the students.

See www.young-enterprise.org.uk for more information about the programmes. YE also run 1 day in-curriculum programmes (eg. Sell for Success; Learn to Earn). These are a fun and valuable 'taster' for the Company Programme – more information of these also on the YE website.

Company Programme - The Role of the Adviser

The adviser treads a careful line between leading the students through the experience and enabling them to run things for themselves. Young Enterprise provides the students (and advisers) with all of the material they need to set up and run their company but in addition, the adviser has to be:

A Source of Knowledge: Advice on organization, decision making, meeting conduct, management and personnel procedures, production, marketing, sales, and accountancy.

In the beginning the adviser will be more of a Shaper to help the students to understand the programme and get going.

A Motivator: When needed, to instill a sense of urgency, raise morale, engender team spirit, be a catalyst, be a 'Devil's Advocate'.

A Consultant: While being careful to avoid directing, the adviser can guide, help, suggest and provide a range of alternative solutions, encourage and inspire an innovative approach.

A Facilitator for Learning: Help students to review and record their learnings.

How Advisers can benefit:

- The chance to broaden your skills in a business environment.
- An opportunity to see how a whole business can operate, rather than just a single function.
- Help develop and improve communication, interpersonal and team working skills.
- Develop self-confidence by dealing directly with committed people in sometimes challenging situations.
- An opportunity to meet other similarly committed local business people.
- The satisfaction of working with young people committed to making their company a success.
- Being a Young Enterprise adviser contributes to some of the qualification requirements of professional bodies including: ACCA, CIMA, CII, ICA, ICSA, IPD, IEE, CIB, CIM, CIPS.
- Exposure to major sponsors
- Support from the YE Board and access to events (skills workshops, competitions, trade fairs, entrepreneurship master-classes etc) it runs
- The whole experience is great fun!

