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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

**Lord Agnew sees careers excellence in action**

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education visited The Misbourne School, Great Missenden, earlier this week to see first-hand what excellent careers education really looks like.

Taking place at the start of [National Careers Week](https://nationalcareersweek.com/), the visit was an opportunity for The Misbourne to showcase the fantastic work they are doing on careers education for their pupils and how The Careers & Enterprise Company, in partnership with [Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/), is supporting this.

Lord Agnew visited the School on Monday for a round table discussion, which included BTVLEP’s Skills Development Manager, Jackie Campbell, [Bucks Skills Hub](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/key-partners/bucks-skills-hub/) Under 19 Skills Manager and Careers Hub Lead, Marina Jackson, along with Claudia Harris, CEO of The Careers & Enterprise Company.

In addition, during the visit The Misbourne’s Careers Leader Helen Hill and Head Teacher Jo Meloni explained how they have achieved 7 (nearly 8) of the [Gatsby Benchmarks](https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/schools-colleges/understand-gatsby-benchmarks) for schools and students put Lord Agnew under the spotlight with intelligent and confident questions on a range of school topics.

Jo Meloni, said: “It was a real privilege today to be hosting a visit from Schools Minister Lord Agnew and CEO of the Careers and Enterprise Company, Claudia Harris. We believe passionately in preparing all young people with the skills and

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attributes to go on from The Misbourne and lead happy and successful lives. Careers education, in all its guises is so central to this which is why we put it at the heart of our curriculum. As Lead School for the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Careers Hub, we take our role seriously in working with other schools and the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP to develop sustainable careers programmes and were pleased to be able to share this work with the Minister today.”

Jo added: “The best part of today for me was seeing the interaction of Lord Agnew and Claudia with our students. It is not every day that you get to engage in a Q&A session with a CEO and a Minister but today fifty of our students got that opportunity.”

Jackie Campbell, Skills Development Manager, Buckinghamshire Skills Hub, said:

“We are making excellent progress in Bucks, working together to improve careers awareness and skills development in all our secondary schools as part of the Careers and Enterprise Company’s national programme. Lord Agnew took away useful insights from The Misbourne’s impressive achievements, feedback and experience. The students were inspired by Lord Agnew’s candid and thoughtful responses to their questions, and were keen to respond when he asked them about their careers, aspirations and views.“

BTVLEP’s Skills Hub and its Enterprise Adviser Network (part of the Careers and Enterprise Company’s national network) supported 70,000 employer-student encounters in Bucks in 2017/18. Home to one of 20 pilot Careers Hubs in England, as part of the established Careers and Enterprise Company programme, Bucks

Skills Hub are connecting schools and businesses with ‘offers’ and ‘asks’ via www.oppsinbucks.org and organising skills competitions in schools with employers including Bosch, East-West Rail and the National Film & Television School, and work place visits to British Standards Institution and Emerson.

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Lord Agnew* *visited The Misbourne earlier this week to see first-hand what excellent careers education really looks like.*

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF), is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Local Authorities.  BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

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