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

# **Bucks exporting world-class careers education**

A group of officials from Spain visited a Buckinghamshire school today to learn about England’s world-class system of careers education.

Schools in England now work towards a set of high standards called the Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Careers Guidance. First published in 2015 by the Gatsby Foundation, the Benchmarks brought together the best bits from careers education systems around the world.

The programme is attracting attention from around the world due to its positive impact on schools and young people. As well as Spain, officials from Hong Kong to Norway are also exploring adapting the Gatsby Benchmarks for their education systems.

The Benchmarks are designed to provide young people with the information, advice and inspiration they need to prepare for the fast-changing world of work. They include an emphasis on interacting with a range of employers, learning about careers across different subjects and receiving personal guidance.

In a visit organised by the British Council and Spanish organisation Fundación Bertelsmann, representatives from the Spanish government, employers and not-for-profits this week visited England to learn about how the Benchmarks work in practice.

The delegation met officials from the Gatsby Foundation, the Department for Education and the Careers & Enterprise Company – the organisation that supports schools with training and resources to help them meet the Benchmarks.

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# **Bucks exporting world-class careers education: 2**

They also met representatives from two of the leading areas of the country – The [Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) and the Leicester & Leicestershire LEP.

The delegation then visited The Misbourne secondary school in Great Missenden, which is one of the top performing schools in the country for careers education. They met teachers and pupils and learned about their excellent careers provision.

Marina Jackson, Under 19 Skills Manager & Careers Hub Lead, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “Since the launch of the Buckinghamshire Skills Hub we have been facilitating the strategic coordination of careers provision across Buckinghamshire to improve opportunities for young people. We are delighted to be able share the successes of the Buckinghamshire Skills Hub with colleagues at an international level.”

Jo Meloni, Headteacher, The Misbourne, said: “At the heart of everything that we do are the young people who come through our gates every morning. Our aim is for them to leave us as world-class students who believe that anything is possible and that they have the tools to achieve their goals.

“By working closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Careers & Enterprise Company, we have developed a well-informed; comprehensive and engaging careers provision that students really value. Careers education at The Misbourne is not an add on, it runs through our curriculum on many levels and we are really pleased to have got the opportunity to share some of our work with the delegation from Spain today.”

**more…**

# **Bucks exporting world-class careers education: 2**

John Yarham, Interim Chief Executive of The Careers & Enterprise Company, said:

“It’s never been more important to prepare young people for the fast-changing world of work. With the clarity that the Gatsby Benchmarks provide and thanks to the hard work of leading schools like The Misbourne, the way careers education works in England has changed dramatically over the last few years.

“We’re now at the stage where we’re exporting our world-class system to neighbours in Europe and beyond.”

Juan José Juárez, Senior Project Manager at Fundación Bertelsmann, said: “We are delighted to learn first-hand from the impressive work The Misbourne secondary school and Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership have done around the Gatsby Benchmarks. The Fundación Bertelsmann has been working for a year and a half adapting the Gatsby Benchmarks to the Spanish context, and this learning visit with high representatives from Spain will be the starting point of a pilot project in Spain for the next school year.”

Beth Jones, Head of Careers Programme, the Gatsby Foundation, said: "The Gatsby Benchmarks were created after looking at the best career guidance systems around the world. I am very pleased that the hard work of schools and colleges over the last two years, and the support provided by The Careers & Enterprise Company and others, means that we now have other countries looking to England as the world leader in careers."

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Spanish delegation visiting The Misbourne secondary school, which is one of the top performing schools in the country for careers education.*

**Note to editors**

The aim of Bucks LEP’s[Skills Hub](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/key-partners/bucks-skills-hub/)is to make a difference to young people’s employability while addressing the needs of employers. Buckinghamshire Skills Hub is working to ensure all schools have access to effective and impactful employer interactions.

The [Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County. Formed in January 2012, the partnership balances a uniquely strong collective business voice with a cohesive elected local leadership. Coming together to engineer the conditions needed to drive forward business prosperity in the county and beyond, Bucks LEP recognises that an important part of this is to support education and skills providers and employers to ensure our young people have the right skills to meet the needs of the economy, including the growth sectors such as life-sciences, space, creative industries and advanced engineering.

[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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**About The Careers & Enterprise Company**

Our mission is to prepare and inspire young people for the fast-changing world of work.

We support schools and colleges by linking them to employers and helping them deliver world class careers support for all young people. We do this by:

* Backing the Gatsby Benchmarks: Supporting implementation of a best practice standard for careers support, the Gatsby Benchmarks, with tools and targeted funding.
* Building Networks: Linking schools and colleges to employers and other external careers providers through the [Enterprise Adviser Network](https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/employers-volunteers/join-enterprise-adviser-network) and [Careers Hubs](https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/schools-colleges/careers-hubs).
* Supporting Careers Leaders: Providing training and support for Careers Leaders in schools and colleges.

The Careers & Enterprise Company evaluated bids according to the level of need in an area, the wider benefit of the proposals to the area and the strength of leadership.

For more information on the Careers & Enterprise Company, please email [press@careersandenterprise.co.uk](mailto:press@careersandenterprise.co.uk) or call 0207 566 3410.