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

**Extension of careers hub to cover all**

**secondary schools in Bucks**

[Bucks Skills Hub](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/key-partners/bucks-skills-hub/) is delighted with the announcement made today (23 June 2020) by the Department for Education and the Careers & Enterprise Company, that the Buckinghamshire Careers Hub has been awarded an extension to its existing careers hub to cover all mainstream secondary schools in Buckinghamshire.

The expansion gives the opportunity for an additional 16 schools and colleges to join the programme, working together with universities, training providers, employers and career professionals. This extension gives the Buckinghamshire Careers Hub an opportunity to accelerate and build upon the careers education already taking place in schools and colleges in the area.

Every secondary mainstream school and college in Buckinghamshire will have access to this additional support to boost careers provision ensuring young people have the opportunities they need in the future. Improving the skills of young people will provide employers will the expertise they need and develop the next generation of talent which will also boost the local economy.

Marina Jackson, Under 19 Skills Manager & Careers Hub Lead, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “I’m thrilled that the first stage of our Careers Hub has been so successful, and its performance demonstrates the dedication of our teachers, businesses and training providers in nurturing the next generation of talent. For young people in Buckinghamshire to have a rewarding career, it is vital that they are aware of the careers opportunities and the skills our businesses require to succeed. Thanks to this expansion, we can work even harder to give our students the best start on their route to high-quality careers while supporting our job creators and key sectors.” **more…**

**Extension of careers hub: 2**

This announcement follows the latest review by the Careers & Enterprise Company that shows Buckinghamshire Careers Hub as the top performing careers hub in the country, outperforming the national average against the Gatsby Benchmarks - the Government’s framework of eight guidelines that define the best careers provision in secondary schools.

Working through a partnership approach with schools, colleges, employers, local enterprise partnerships and other local organisations, Careers Hubs have accelerated levels of support and improvement in young people’s career development. Careers Hubs have been at the forefront of efforts to respond to the initial period of lockdown, continuing to offer young people support with their career decision making.

Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills, Gillian Keegan said: “We want young people across the country to receive the best careers advice so they can get a head start in the world of work and go on to have successful careers.

“The expansion of our Careers Hubs will mean we are now supporting more than 2,200 schools and colleges, bringing them together with employers to provide high quality careers guidance.

“Now, more than ever, it’s vital young people make the most of their talents and are aware of the range of opportunities available. This is brilliant news and I look forward to hearing about the progress made.”

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Every secondary mainstream school and college in Bucks will have access to this additional support to boost careers provision.*

**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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