



MENTORING NEWS SUMMER 2009

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END OF TERM

As we all know, in the words of the song, "school's out for summer!" The last few weeks of term have been very hectic in most schools with work experience, sports days, and exams disrupting timetables, not to mention scares over swine flu, so it may have been difficult to see some of your mentees as planned.

Most schools start the autumn term on September 3rd, so you should expect to be able to see your mentees from the week beginning September 6th.

I attach to the newsletter some mentor feedback forms which we would be really grateful if you could complete and return.

We do read them carefully and your comments, together with those of young people, parents and schools, help us to provide the best possible service for young people. Feedback forms are an important tool in helping us to support you in your valuable role.

I also attach an expense form and a mentoring session report form. Please send in any outstanding reports to tope@kmebp.org.uk.

MENTORING TEAM

We are delighted that Tope Hunter, manager of the mentoring projects, is now back from her maternity leave.

We also welcomed Victoria Arneill to the team during the summer term. Many of you will have met her at our training day and network evening. She has been working on the My Voice Project for three days a week since November 2008 and we were delighted that she was able to work with us on the other two days.



EXPANSION INTO ALL THE SOUTH LONDON BOROUGHES

We are delighted to report that we are now working with Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth. We will also be liaising with Lewisham and Southwark to identify what type of support they would like.

If you are interested in working in these areas, please get in touch with the mentoring team.

CREDIT TO US AND YOU

KMEBP is celebrating its outstanding 'Investors in People' review. The assessor found that people believe that KMEBP is a great place to work and are proud of the work carried out by the charity. There was a strong, shared sense of purpose and vision. The review concluded that the leadership is passionate and that the charity embodies many of the best aspects of a small enterprise – flexibility, agility, and responsiveness to the 'customer', combined with the highest professional standards.

A big thank you goes to Sandra Gregoire and Helen McGillivray who helped give the mentors' side of the story.

Special thanks again to all our mentors. One of the reasons this is such a great place to work is that we are so fortunate in having such a fantastic team of volunteers, who share our vision of making life better for young people.

We have had some very good outcomes this term and our young people really value the time you give to them.

So please keep up the good work.

OFFICE OPENING

During the summer, the office will be open most of the time, but with a smaller team as people take their holidays while schools are closed. If you want to get in touch with the mentoring team and there appears to be no-one in the office, please send an email to Terri or Tope as their inboxes will be checked daily. Their e-mail addresses are:

terri@kmebp.org.uk

tope@kmebp.org.uk



WELCOME ABOARD

Our team of volunteer mentors continues to grow stronger. We would like to thank

Sarah Turner, Victoria Seale, Olabisi

Adesina, Sussie Darbah, Laura Martin and Nina Logan who have successfully completed their training. We very much look forward to working with them.

WHAT DO TEENAGERS DO?

The newspapers this past week have been full of the news that a 15 year old work experience student Matthew Robson, at the London offices of US banker Morgan Stanley, wrote a report on 'teenagers and media'. He said (shock, horror!) that young people do not listen to radio or use Twitter and rarely go to the cinema. Not surprising news to most mentors, I am sure. But this 'revelation' apparently caused massive ripples in businesses right across the world who spend millions trying to understand the young people they want to influence for the future.

HOW DO TEENAGERS GET THEIR NEWS?

Scott Campbell, a 13 year old writing on the BBC web site, says a large proportion of

teens prefer to get their news from popular You Tube stars, such as Philip de Franco (general, odd news) and Michael Buckley (entertainment news). Teens like the fact that You Tube is interactive and they can head straight for the sites they are interested in. Apparently, teenagers prefer human interest stories which wither or humiliate the subject or are particularly unusual.

Scott also contends that, while many adults think computer games have a negative effect on teens, they do not. Teens, he says, play games to take on the role of a character and try out the situations 'virtually'. While it is true that many games let the player carry out criminal acts, most usually have consequences, such as being arrested and having weapons confiscated. Some computer games like Guitar Hero have a really positive effect, encouraging young people to take up the guitar.

What has all this got to do with mentoring, you may wonder? Well it is a good idea to find out what your mentee likes to do online; it is an excellent way to get conversations



started on a whole host of subjects that will interest them.

And you may learn a few things yourself along the way.

Because the computer may be the first port of call for any questions they have, you can encourage mentees to use sites with reliable information sources especially the non-commercial ones.

As we have mentioned before, a trawl through the hugely varied and valuable BBC website is often very useful. Bitesize on that site is an excellent educational revision resource which surprisingly few young people use, despite (or, perhaps, because) it is recommended by teachers. The Slink online magazine is also a particularly good site.

We might add that, as adults seeking information and entertainment, if you are not familiar with the BBC sites already, you might enjoy some quiet time online with the Beeb this summer!

However you are spending (what we hope will be) the lazy, hazy days of summer, try and have a good break. We look forward to seeing you again in September. ☺

MENTORING ACHIEVEMENTS

"This has had an enormous impact on [mentee]'s life here at [school] – we do believe that she would not have completed her GCSE without the help of [mentor]'s weekly visits."

School