

**Make the Grade what we've achieved in
2012/2013**

£1 million leverage

107 different businesses supported

704 volunteers involved

3000+ pupils supported

90 volunteering activities delivered

Read all about it!

Click below for some fantastic write ups on our work in the news.



- [Group Mentoring with Roundhay and First](#)
- [Dragons Den Activity at Baker Tilly with Crawshaw](#)
- [Grant Thornton Functional Workshop with Swallow Hill](#)

Make the Grade in the Spotlight

Following on from their victory in the **Asda Ice Cream Challenge**, the **Crawshaw pupils** behind 'Orange Fusion' visited R&R Ice Cream's factory to get a behind-the-scenes look ahead of the launch of their product. **We're excited that the ice-cream will be launched in some Asda stores in September!**



Something new for Make the Grade

Pupils from **The Co-Operative Academy of Leeds** had the opportunity to get involved with the new Trinity Centre in the heart of Leeds. In collaboration with **Leeds Employment and Skills Service, Land Securities** sponsored a project with the aim to educate young people on the range of jobs in retail. Activities included Employability Workshops, Mock Interviews as well as an exciting tour of Trinity.



We were delighted to partner a new school in the Kirklees area **Mirfield Free Grammar** piloted a new activity: an Industry Day of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) with 100 Year 10s (aged 14/15). Students were supported by local businesses and undertook a range of activities. Businesses involved included **PPG Industries, The Courtyard Dental, Cummins** and **Paxman Coolers**.

The object of the day was to target girls who might not otherwise choose to work in the sector. The day concluded with a large STEM focused Careers Event.



New businesses and schools

This term we would like to welcome **The Big Word** (International Translation Company) and **Yorkshire Bank** (Finance) who have partnered with Roundhay school as well as **Cintas** (Document Management Providers) and **Leeds Community Health Care Trust** (Healthcare Provider) who have recently partnered with Carr Manor School.

"I think it has helped me to know more about what interviews will be like in the future." **Student, John Smeaton**

Ahead Partnership are focused on the impact for pupils which is great."

Teacher at Carr Manor

"I was able to share my experience and guidance. I feel inspired." **Ralph Thoresby Volunteer**



ARUP Engineering Awareness Week

In July fourteen students across eight schools took part in **ARUP's** Engineering Awareness Week. Students were split into groups and tasked with an enterprise idea – planning the 2024 Olympic Games in Leeds! This was a great chance for the students involved to gain valuable experience of the engineering industry.

“Each year it gets better and better and this year’s winners were tremendous. They offered a good balance of professionalism in their presentation and creative thinking in their solutions.”

Geoff Davidson, Associate Director, Arup.

Ahead Partnership are delighted to announce that one of our mentors from **Pinsent Masons**, Chris Graham, won the Employee Volunteer of the Year in the BITC awards. Chris has been a key driver in the Boys Group Mentoring scheme, part of **Cockburn School's** programme.



“I am overwhelmed with immense pride and pleasure, not only for myself but more so in recognition for the scheme itself. This award is a true reflection of commitment from the mentors at Pinsent Masons as well as dedication from students at Cockburn.”

Further opportunities from our network of partners:

For businesses:

- Fully funded MBAs available from the University of Leeds please email mba@lubs.leeds.ac.uk for further details
- Leeds City Council are looking for advisors to support Leeds to become Child Friendly, interested? childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk

For schools:

- OCR are running a national language competition. Email Megan for details!
- Are you or your students aged 13-25 and have an idea to support the local community? **O2's Think Big Competition** could be just the thing you're looking for!

•[Aspire-i Careers Conference](#)

For both:

- [Find out what's happening in the Leeds City Region](#)

On the Couch...

Each term the Ahead Partnership team will be interviewing someone who has experienced **Make the Grade**. This term we interviewed the girls from the Girls Group Mentoring programme at **Swallow Hill**.

The programme, supported with mentors from **Grant Thornton**, **Premier Farnell** and **Logistik**, was set up to support 13-14 year old girls to understand more about the working world and increase their confidence and aspirations.

We asked the students what they enjoyed? *It made us feel good about ourselves; it helped us with team work, communication and relationship building. We feel that it's given us a step ahead in life.*

What was your favourite part of the programme? *All of it, being able to go to the businesses, meeting new people that we otherwise wouldn't have met, and more importantly being supported to work through our options for leaving school.*

Summing it up in 3 words the girls said: *“Helpful, Fun and Life Skills.”*



Thank you to everyone who attended our Make the Grade Annual Education Event.

It was fantastic to see representatives from all of our lead businesses and schools.



Education News: Click on the links below to find out more on what is happening in the education sector:

- [New Vocational Courses for 16-19 year olds](#)
- [Changes to GCSE courses for students in England](#)
- [Raising of the Participation Age](#)
- [Study Programmes for all 16-19 year olds begin from September](#)

If you'd like to see anything featured in next term's newsletter please contact Megan Taylor by emailing megan.taylor@aheadpartnership.org.uk