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

**Further expansion of Buckinghamshire Careers Hub**

The Buckinghamshire Careers Hub from this week will be expanded to include every secondary state-funded special school and pupil referral unit in Buckinghamshire. This will see an additional nine schools join the 36 mainstream schools already in the Careers Hub.

This week’s launch event, hosted by Stony Dean School was attended by headteachers from the hub, as well as Careers Leaders, The Careers and Enterprise Company, Talentino, Department for Work and Pensions, Buckinghamshire Council, The Pinewood Group, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, other partners and local MP, Sarah Green.

The extended support will help schools deliver all eight Gatsby Benchmarks and improve outcomes for all students in Buckinghamshire with special educational needs and disabilities, and additional needs, whether in mainstream or specialist settings.

Marina Jackson, Under 19 Skills Manager & Careers Hub Lead, Buckinghamshire Skills Hub, said: “I am excited for this next phase of the Buckinghamshire Careers Hub which has been established for over three years. Our special schools and pupil referral units already provide excellent careers education and with our support and guidance, we can continue to help young people develop the skills they need for independent living and their next steps after leaving education.”

Neil Strain, Headteacher at Stony Dean School, said: “It was delightful to be part of county wide initiative to help the most vulnerable into purposeful employment.”

**more…**

**Further expansion of Buckinghamshire Careers Hub: 2**

For extensive skills and careers information please visit the new Bucks Skills Hub website at: [www.bucksskillshub.org](http://www.bucksskillshub.org) or email one of the skills team at [info@bucksskillshub.org](mailto:info@bucksskillshub.org) or call 01494 927130.

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Launch event celebrating the expansion of the Buckinghamshire Careers Hub to include every secondary state-funded special school and pupil referral unit in Buckinghamshire*

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Skills Hub**](https://bucksskillshub.org/) promotes and optimises links between the business community and education/training providers to enable young people and adults to gain valuable insight into career opportunities, and helps them develop the skills and qualifications they need to progress in the workplace at whatever stage of their career they are in.

The Bucks Skills Hub is managed by Buckinghamshire Business First and supported by Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Buckinghamshire Council and the Careers Enterprise Company.

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 Local Enterprise Partnership funded the new [Bucks Skills Hub website](http://www.bucksskillshub.org/) as part of its Covid Recovery Programme.

[**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 Buckinghamshire Council. 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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