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

**Bucks Skills Show goes from strength to strength**

The annual [Bucks Skills Show](https://bbf.uk.com/business-support/buckinghamshire-skills-show) is the county’s largest interactive and experiential skills festival, and this year the event took place entirely virtually between the 9th-13th November, with a focus on careers in the curriculum.

Marina Jackson, Under 19 Skills Manager & Careers Hub Lead, [Buckinghamshire Skills Hub](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/key-partners/bucks-skills-hub/), said: “We were delighted with the success of this year’s Skills Show, which attracted 5,000 virtual visitors. Our employer led curriculum sessions aimed to embed careers within the curriculum and help students to understand the relevance of their subjects to future careers. Sessions for young people and their parents/carers explored the different options available to them. Careers support and guidance plays a critical role more now than ever before and we were delighted to have the support from our amazing employers.”

The Bucks Skills Show online 2020 aimed to help motivate students after lockdown, show students why subjects are relevant to real life – and why it matters, and inspire students to be positive about their futures.

The event was split into two parts, the first part ‘Bringing Lessons to Life’ included inspirational speakers from businesses such as McAfee, Esri, Capgemini and BAM Construct who demonstrated how the curriculum is used in their every-day-jobs.

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**Bucks Skills Show goes from strength to strength: 2**

Teachers and students picked from a timetable of 25 x30-minute live online employer-led careers in the curriculum lessons for Year 9 students. A wide range of subjects were covered from Maths and English to Physics and Music. The speakers spoke about their career journeys giving young people a wealth of advice and helpful messages about routes into their industries and skills required such as resilience, problem solving, persistence and enthusiasm. They encouraged students to follow their interests and passions.

Duncan Howell, Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University, said: “Careers information delivered by professionals, passionate about their subject, offers, not only an understanding of a career, but a more personal and real example of a journey into the work place. Bucks Skills Show has excelled in bringing an eclectic range of professionals together, to support learning and inform of a future that subjects can lead to.”

The second part of the event included two live webinars for 16-18 year olds on labour market information and next steps, the first **‘**Where next: employment, education or apprenticeship?’ on 10th November, included presentations from local universities including the University of Buckingham, Bucks New University, Buckinghamshire College Group, apprenticeship experts and Buckinghamshire Business First, on how to guide students on what employers are looking for.

The second event entitled ‘Understanding the job market: what’s on your doorstep?’ on 12th November, included an update on the local economy post-19 as well as representatives from Buckinghamshire’s growth sectors – creative, space, health and care, digital, high performance engineering and construction. The aim of the session was to inform about future career paths and inspire students about the great opportunities available to them.

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**Bucks Skills Show goes from strength to strength: 3**

This year’s Bucks Skills Show was even mentioned in Parliament! “Will my right Hon. Friend welcome this initiative (Bucks Skills Show) and the work of Buckinghamshire Business First, as well as the Bucks Careers Hub, which was named the top performer in the country? Does he agree that their support for young people facing increasing challenges to kickstart their career post-virus shows what can be achieved by a successful partnership between business, the Bucks local enterprise partnership, the council and the Careers and Enterprise Company.” Dame Cheryl Gillan MP (Chesham and Amersham).

For further information on the Bucks Skills Show please visit: [www.bbf.uk.com/news/top-marks-to-the-bucks-skills-show-2020-for-inspiring-students-in-challenging-times](http://www.bbf.uk.com/news/top-marks-to-the-bucks-skills-show-2020-for-inspiring-students-in-challenging-times)

To view videos of this year’s presentations and workshops please [click here](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8Nu4y7GrsQw4ksWV-H75pZ6eebH7zeSs).

**Ends**

**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 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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