

Connect Group press release: 2 March 2015

Bath Rugby Foundation wins Department for Education (DfE) 'Character Award' for 'Stickability' programme

Bath Rugby Foundation is delighted to have been selected as a South West regional Award winner, securing £15,000 for their work in character education.

The DfE received a high volume of quality applications demonstrating how schools and organisations across the country are working to prepare young people for life in modern Britain. The Foundation was praised by the DfE judging panel for developing the character traits, attributes and behaviours that underpin success in school and work.

The Stickability programme is supported financially by Trowbridge-based education supplies business The Consortium, who also provide their staff as volunteers to support the delivery of the programme in schools. The Consortium are part of Connect Group PLC, whose Head Office is based at Kembrey Park, Swindon.

'Stickability' is delivered free of charge in primary schools across the Bath & North East Somerset and Wiltshire areas, to pupils aged 7-11. Oliver Tompkins Primary and Even Primary School in Swindon have also benefitted from the scheme.

The programme incorporates six weekly two-hour sessions for classes, and combines classroom-based literacy sessions with outdoor multi-skills activities to support physical development. Throughout each session, five key character attributes are developed by using a unique sticker system and specific positive praise. The praise focusses on the process the child uses rather than the outcome, with the aim of helping each child to develop a 'Growth Mindset'.

Stickability is aimed at children and young people who are among the most vulnerable; they may be socially isolated or living in an area of deprivation; have a physical or learning disability, be long-term unemployed or at risk of social or school exclusion. All of the young people the Foundation work with are encouraged to respond positively to whatever challenges they may be facing, and we seek to give them tools to overcome their future challenges too.

The awards are designed to highlight the most effective ways of ensuring pupils leave school ready for life in modern Britain. Bath Rugby Foundation Education Manager Vicky Heslop and Joanne Kent, a volunteer from The Consortium will attend the awards ceremony in London on 16 March, where Secretary of State for Education Nicky Morgan will present the award.

The full Department of Education announcement can be read here: www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-of-the-character-awards-announced

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