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Unique partnership creates business stars of tomorrow

A ground-breaking partnership between the six high schools in East Leeds and the occupiers of Thorpe Park Business Park is set to boost the business skills of the city's students.

Companies on the business park – the third largest in the country when complete, with an expected workforce of 18,000 – have signed up to the Thorpe Park Pathways Partnership to help develop the 'real life' and business skills of students from the East Leeds educational wedge. The Partnership is set to be the biggest of its kind in the country – with a possible 6,000 school children eligible to take part in the scheme.

Under the Partnership, selected students from the new David Young Community Academy, Corpus Christi, Garforth, John Smeaton, Temple Moor and Brigshaw high schools and community colleges will be able to experience business life at the sharp end – either through work experience placements, mentoring and personal guidance by leading business figures, role play in real business situations and other key developmental activities.

"The Partnership will provide companies on Thorpe Park with an increasing skilled and business-focussed young workforce while providing school pupils in pre- and post-16 education real and practical work experience at occupiers of Thorpe Park," said Deborah Doyle, Director of Thorpe Park (Leeds) Ltd.

"Companies already signed up to the unique programme include Thorpe Park occupiers and associates such as IBM, Regus, Taylor Woodrow, Shire Inns, Hill Woolhouse, DTZ and Carey Jones Architects.

"The initiative is being led by Leeds City Council through its Outer East Area Committee. It is also heavily supported by the headteachers of the Schools and Education Leeds. We are very grateful for their hard work in realising the Partnership."

The Partnership will be officially launched at the Thorpe Park Hotel and Spa on Friday, 24 March. Students and staff from each of the six high schools will be on hand to discuss the benefits of the partnership to businesses. All occupiers of Thorpe Park are invited to find out more about the Partnership at the launch.

Further details about the launch, and to book a space, can be obtained by ringing James Bates on 01756 761111.

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