



spark!
KICK
STARTING
CAREERS

YEP!

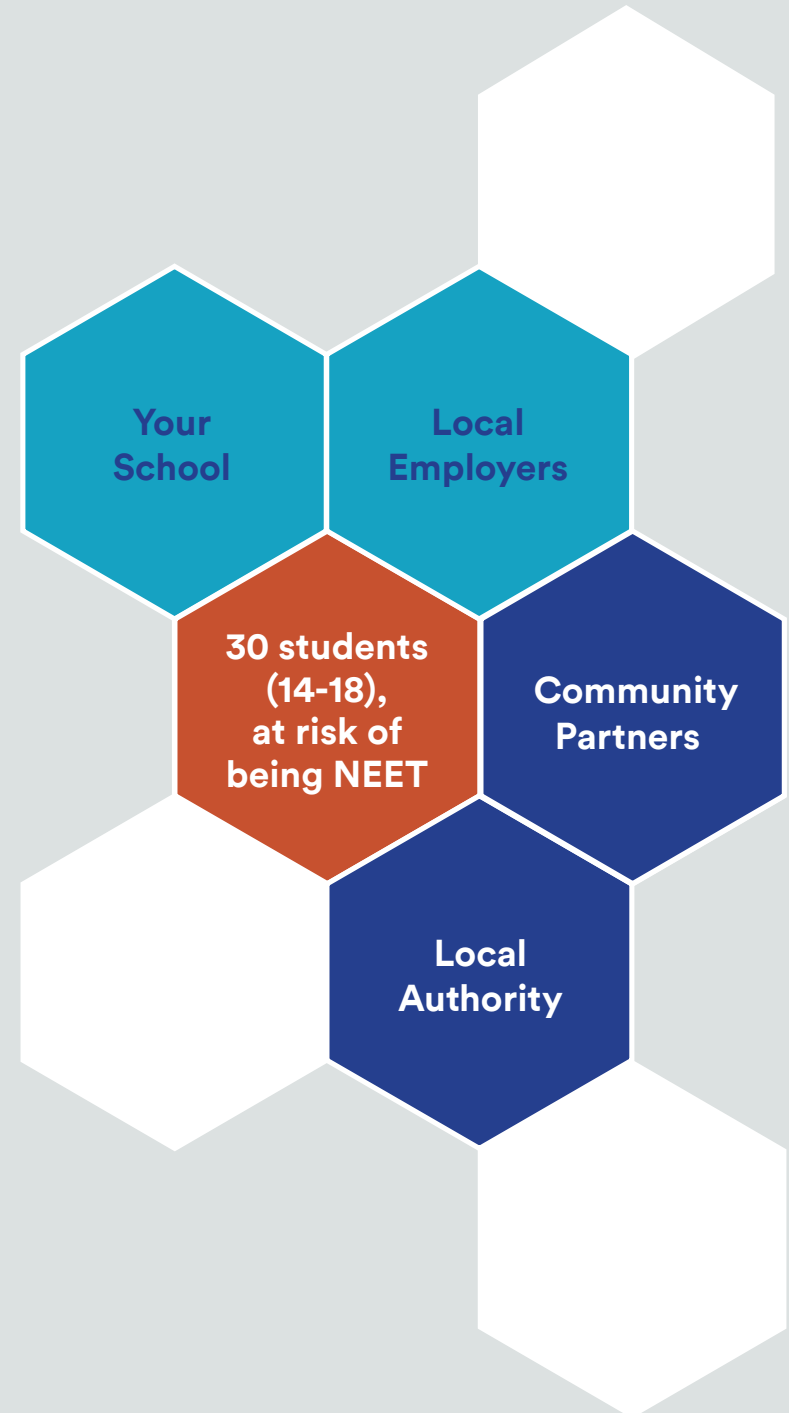
YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY
PARTNERSHIP

The Youth Employability Partnership (YEP!)

The YEP! is a community of organisations set up to bring together schools and colleges, local employers, and community partners to tackle the joint challenges of entrenched youth unemployment and the local skills gap in Brent and Ealing.

In partnership with your school, we broker relationships with local employers, and mobilise these to implement multiple and meaningful engagements with employers and workplaces, to support **30 of your students** (aged 14 to 18) over 2 years, who have been identified as at-risk of becoming 'Not in Employment, Education or Training'.

This work has been fully funded with thanks to John Lyons Charity, the Charities Aid Foundation and Ealing Council.



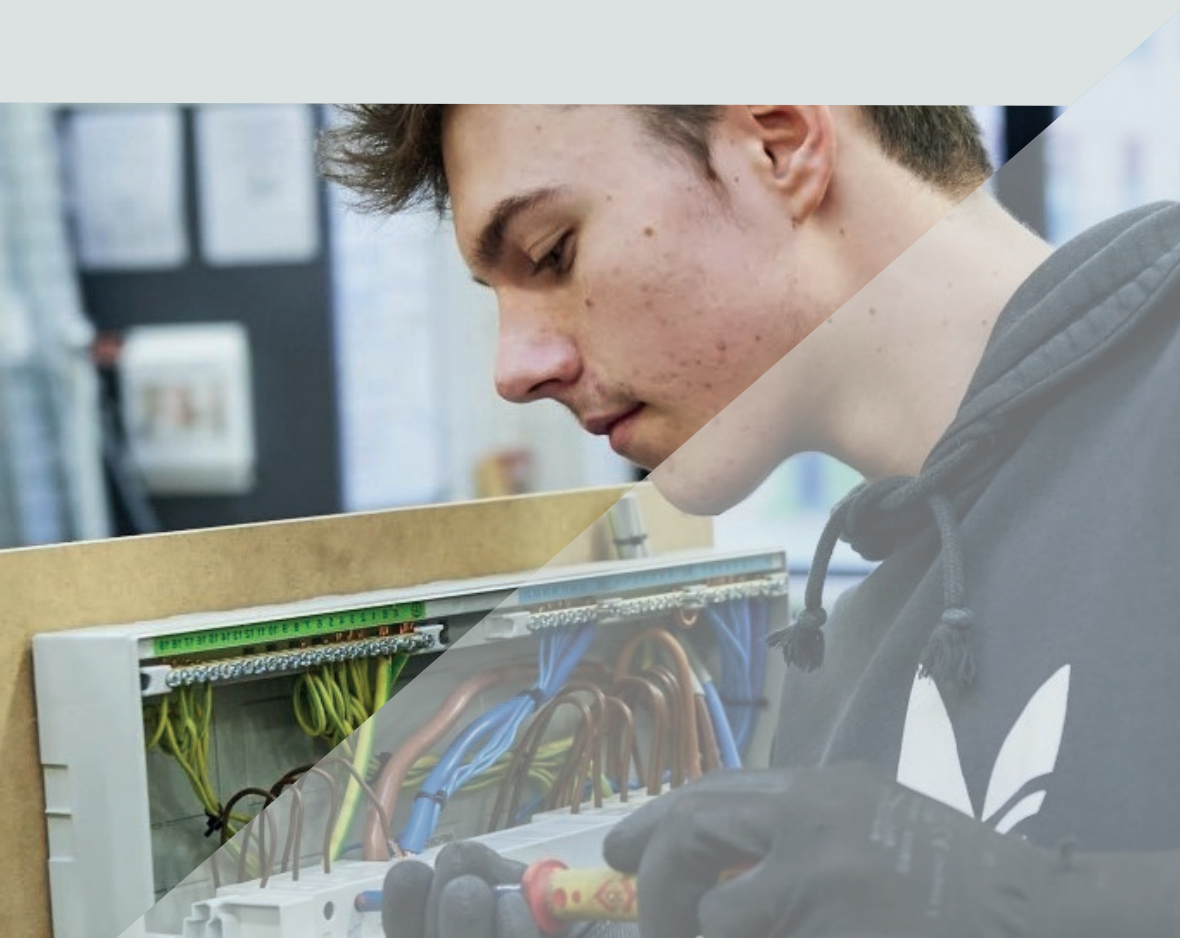
JOHN LYONS' CHARITY



Local Youth Employer Partnerships

Spark! has been working with employers of West London for over 13 years and our YEP! team continuously reaches out to local Brent and Ealing employers and mobilises them to support your young people.

On average, students on the programme encounter 10 employers per academic year.



Once partnered with your school, Spark! will target relevant employers in your local area for your students to have meaningful and impactful employer engagements and the tangible insights into the Local Labour Market Information (LMI).

The YEP! Programme

The YEP! Programme has been designed, tried and tested with our target population, schools and employer partners over **18 months**. Our activities prioritise practice and gaining tangible experiences to develop students' core employability skills, in line with the SkillsBuilder Framework.

Our programme comprises of **3 key phases**:



...strengths, weaknesses, and options for moving forward.

...how to master employability skills through practical and engaging sessions.

... skills through mock applications, assessment centres and interviews.



All sessions are supported by our network of employers





“I found the sessions very helpful as they gave me an insight on how things will be when at the next step, such as an apprenticeship. They have also provided me with practice interviews which helped me to receive valuable feedback and were brilliant”

– YEP! Student 2024

“I believe, like the many others that participated in Spark! sessions, I have improved and gained the necessary knowledge and skills that are needed by employers and overall it’s helped me increase my confidence”

– YEP! Student 2024

“I have found the sessions really helpful since they were interactive and helped me get feedback for improvement. I have enjoyed the practice mock interviews and learned about the Mars company. I haven’t really found anything that’s not helpful, so I would do this again if I ever had a chance.”

– YEP! Student 2024

Your Commitment

While there is **no cost to the schools/colleges**, we require a full commitment to the programme, relationships, and the activities that we support you to develop and deliver.

We estimate that it will require approximately **1 day a month of school staff time**, for the following:



PLAN

Needs analysis of gaps in school's career provision.



BASELINE

Students complete survey baseline, including the SkillsBuilder Framework.



CONNECT

Spark! networks with local employers to broker relationships.



DELIVER

A range of meaningful employer engagements designed to meet needs.



MEASURE

Students complete exit survey, including the SkillsBuilder Framework.



REVIEW

Impact data & feedback. Plan for the following year.

Without Spark! it would not be possible to run a programme at this scale with the range of employers involved. The programme has also allowed the school to develop relationships with employers for other forthcoming career events, for example Galaxy. It is also excellent CPD for Careers Leader”.

– Andrew Webb, Careers Leader Featherstone High School



“Often, schools want to participate in the many, many offers we get from local employers but do not have the time, staffing or budget capacity to do so. The fact that Spark! has worked so hard to make the YEP! programme fit to our timetable with as little disruption as possible is hugely appreciated and means we have the support of SLT and Governors to continue with the project.”

– Alicia Crix, Careers Leader at EPHS

YEP! in Action

Featherstone High School



Featherstone High School Case Study

After an excellent experience on Spark!’s GSK CONNECT Mentoring and SEGRO Employability Programme in 2022, Featherstone was quick to sign their students up to the YEP! in autumn 2022.

Their goal was to raise awareness of apprenticeships and entry-level job opportunities for their 6th formers who were at-risk-of NEET.



In 2022/23 and 2023/24, the YEP! has:

Supported

60

students in
years 12-13

Mobilised

51

volunteers
from 27
employer
partners

Delivered

13

high quality
meaningful
employer
engagement
activities

“ This has been a reality check for many young people seeking to enter employment after Year 13. This has included broadening their horizons to explore industries which they previously hadn’t heard of or considered. It has also helped them understand exactly what employers look for and recognise it is more than top grades.”
Andrew Webb, Careers Leader at FHS

YEP! in Action

Elthorne Park High School



ELTHORNE PARK
— HIGH SCHOOL —

Elthorne Park High School & GSK Case Study

Elthorne Park joined the YEP! In autumn 2022. Their goal was to provide more targeted and tailored support for their young people who were at-risk-of NEET and had unclear post-16 destinations.

In Spring 2023, we identified a strategic partnerships with the GSK Treasury team who were looking for local volunteering opportunities. Spark! supported the team to plan a series of meaningful engagement activities that complimented the school's broader careers curriculum, including an exciting insight visit to GSK House.



Between Sept 2023 to April 2024, the YEP! has:

Supported	Engaged	Delivered
54	16	9
students in year 10 and 11	volunteers from GSK to support activities	employability sessions, 2 work placements and an industry insight visit

EPHS and the GSK Treasury Team were awarded the 'School and Business Partnership of the Year' at the Spark! Annual Awards 2024.

“I am very happy and thankful for my teachers for organising these amazing sessions. I have learned loads and practised the most important skills that will help me achieve my goals.”
EPHS student 2024

Other Spark! Programmes

YEP! school partners also get offered first refusal for wider Spark! programmes available to young people in Brent and Ealing.

We are constantly working with businesses to bring exciting employability programmes to young people in West London. Here are some of the programmes we have previously offered:



Employability
& Mentoring
Programme



Work Experience
& Mentoring



STEM Career
Mentoring



Work Experience
Programme



Brent Work
Experience
Programme



Heathrow
Generation
STEM
programme



Women in
Engineering
Mentoring
Programme



+ MORE!

Next Steps...

If you want your at-risk-of NEET students to:

- Increase their confidence, motivation & career aspirations.
- Improve their essential employability skills.
- Improve their Labour Market knowledge and access to a range of employment pathways
- Transition into sustained employment or further/higher education.

Then register your interest today!

Participating schools/colleges will established long-term partnerships with three or more local employers, supporting an embedded and school-wide careers and employability curriculum.

In the first instance please e-mail Megan Wright, meganwright@sparkcharity.org.uk, to express your interest in joining this partnership. We will then arrange a time to meet to discuss the opportunity in more detail and to answer all your questions.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR Code to join the YEP! LinkedIn group to stay up to date on new opportunities:



Who we are

Spark! is a charity working across west London, improving young people's employment prospects since 2010.

Our vision is of a society in which all young people are ready, equipped, motivated and able to enter the world of work.

Our mission is to ensure all young people, particularly those who will most benefit, have access to meaningful employer engagement, work readiness skills development and employment opportunities, to transition into sustained work and rewarding careers.

We work in partnership with schools and colleges, and alongside a large and diverse range of employers, (including GSK, Dell, Lego, Paramount, Cisco, Accenture, and many others), enhancing young people's employability skills, knowledge and experience, so that they are better prepared for and able to effectively transition into the workplace, finding and keeping a job.

We do this by enabling and supporting long-term relationships between local businesses and education:

- ▶▶ delivering a range of employer engagement and employability skills development opportunities.
- ▶▶ creating high quality work experience, placements and internships.
- ▶▶ brokering and empowering inspiring career mentoring relationships.
- ▶▶ providing access to an online employability and careers portal.
- ▶▶ supporting transitions into work.



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