

Putting Learning into Action

Forward-Thinking School Harnesses the Potential of its Apprentices.



Meden School has just celebrated its 50th anniversary and is understandably very proud. The school has been on a huge journey, working hard to introduce improvements and raise standards resulting in a move out of 'special measures' to be rated as a 'good' school. This was achieved after considerable hard work and dedication by staff, who achieved the results in less than a year.

As part of this forward thinking approach an Apprenticeship programme has been introduced to provide further development opportunities for their school leavers.

"We want to try to expand young people's horizons and our apprentices help us with this, as they can relate to the position our students are in and as role models, show them what it is possible to achieve."

Not only has the programme been excellent for the apprentices themselves but Meden is reaping the benefits right across the school.

Getting Started

Tim Gibbon, Strategy Support Manager at Meden School explains:

"Our former Head of 6th Form suggested we investigate an Apprentice Programme. We had a couple of 6th form students getting ready to leave school and who were very interested in teaching as a career.

We wanted to find a way to develop and encourage these students and apprenticeships seemed to be the perfect solution. It was the ideal way for them to test the waters.

We offered them the opportunity to work with our inclusion team, as Apprentices, working towards the Level 2 qualification, in Supporting Teaching and Learning.

They jumped at the chance!"

Fast Facts

Employer: Meden School

Business Sector: Education

No. of Employees: 125

No. of Apprentices: 4

Framework: Business Administration

www.medenschool.co.uk

"With the support of the Chamber, we were able to offer this opportunity to a further two young people, giving them the chance to develop their skills in working with students - again, with very successful results."

Since then, we have progressed into offering Business Administration apprenticeships. The first student on this programme proved to be a real star and has developed a great deal since he started. We are currently recruiting for a 5th apprentice - predominantly supporting our exams team."

A Successful Strategy

The Apprenticeship Programme has worked well for Meden.

“It has proved hugely successful for us and for the Apprentices,” Tim says.

“The way they have all developed and delivered has been phenomenal. They’ve done such a great job for us and for the students. For example, we recently held an Activities Week which focused on the different decades since the school started in 1965.

We appointed different Apprentices to different decades and it proved to be a real success. They were able to bridge the gap with the students and it was wonderful to see the connections they made - for instance, their work with more vulnerable students.”

“We adapted the role slightly for our Apprentices, so that the focus

was on 1-1 work, rather than on class teaching, but the overall essence was the same.”

The Key Benefits

Meden has seen many benefits from the Apprentice programme.

“We are all about raising aspirations for young people,” Tim confirms. “Our locality was previously a mining community so we are living with the legacy of this. We want to try to expand young people’s horizons and our apprentices help us with this as they can relate to the position our students are in and as role models, show them what it is possible to achieve.”

“The Chamber supports us really well and has always been there when we needed them. They’ve helped us with the recruitment process, drafting job descriptions, advertising and so much more.”

Future Plans

The future is looking very bright at Meden who are now bringing pupils into the school from beyond their traditional boundaries. The school has recently been refurbishing key parts of the site - including the dining facilities, library and various classrooms - and is set for positive times ahead.

Key Chamber Services

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Shaping Your Workforce

Our Business Development Advisers understand that businesses sometimes require tailored solutions to improve skills and meet industry standards. By working in partnership with you - our experts will evaluate your training needs and make cost-effective recommendations that can be seamlessly implemented.

We are committed to delivering high quality Apprenticeships and training across a broad spectrum of industry sectors. The Chamber was awarded “Good” by Ofsted in 2014 in recognition of our high performance and as an endorsement of our reputation of ensuring we meet the business needs of our employers in the East Midlands.

Our range of Workforce development services includes:

- ✓ Apprenticeships
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