



a ROUGH GUIDE



young  
CHAMBER



1

## What is Young Chamber?

Young Chamber connects young people between the ages of 11 - 19 directly with local businesses and employers.

It's unique strength is to provides students with access to the business community in their area through the extensive Chamber of Commerce network.

Within each school a Young Chamber Council is elected which plans events for the whole school community and contact with local businesses is facilitated by a Young Chamber Co-ordinator.

Each term students plan which business related activities they would like to host. This ensures that Young Chamber is non-prescriptive and is driven by student interest.

Young Chamber provides a very real, dynamic and effective engagement with the business community for young people in the area of work related learning.

By talking directly to potential employers it can help students make decisions about future careers and provides a genuine insight into how businesses work.

[youngchamber.com](http://youngchamber.com)



Young Chamber is  
supported by the  
British Chambers  
of Commerce



YOUNG  
CHAMBER



2

## How Young Chamber works

Within each school a Young Chamber Council is elected and students assign different roles to the council members. The Council is responsible for planning termly events which reflect the interests of the whole school body itself. There is a detailed online guide giving advice and ideas for both setting up a Council and suggestions for ongoing events.

Ideally, the Young Chamber Council should consist of 18 students.

Their first task is to allocate job roles, typically:

- President
- Vice President
- Finance Officers x 2
- Marketing Officers x 2
- Business Development Officers x 2
- School Liaison Officers x 2
- Communications Officers x 2
- Press Officers x 2
- Evaluation Officers x 2
- Resources Officers x 2

The Council should meet weekly (or a minimum of fortnightly) and at the end of the school year the President submits a report to the Young Chamber teacher and Co-ordinator.

Officers must be re-elected each year.

Set-up information and suggestions for activities are available on-line.

[youngchamber.com](http://youngchamber.com)



YOUNG  
CHAMBER



3

## Young Chamber resources

Alongside the practical help and advice from the Young Chamber Co-ordinator there are extensive online tools available for Young Chamber Councils and schools to access.

These include:



**Young Chamber Interactive (YCi):** this extensive online facility includes video interviews of entrepreneurs and professionals in specific industry sectors, informative guides to a wide range of career choices, explanations of business terminology and helpful notes to students.



**5th Matrix:** a secure, school-only careers/networking account for every student providing areas for career research and comment. There is also a video-based section where students are challenged to stretch their imaginations and come up with 5 jobs of potential interest

There is also a wealth of stories and case studies online showing what other Young Chambers are doing across the country.

[youngchamber.com](http://youngchamber.com)



young  
CHAMBER



## Young Chamber Events

Young Chambers are being creative in the nature and style of events they are organising.

Ideas for events have included:

**Speed networking** - where a range of local businesses gather and students move from table to table asking questions.

**Business Challenge** - where either a business or the students themselves set a challenge and the outcomes are pitched to a panel of experts.

**Organising an event** - this may be a Fashion Show or Film Weekend and student groups assume responsibility for every aspect of hosting the event.

**Site visit** - where students visit the workplace of a local business.

**Invitation** - where one or a group of selected business people are invited to attend the school and talk about what they do.

Young Chamber Councils plan what kind of business related events they want to host. There is no shortage of ideas and many can be seen on the Young Chamber website.

[youngchamber.com](http://youngchamber.com)



YOUNG  
CHAMBER



## Benefits of Young Chamber

Young Chamber provides schools with a powerful tool for facilitating student to business contact. By utilising the Chamber of Commerce network it becomes easier for schools to access hundreds of businesses in their local area. The Young Chamber Council represents all students within the school and can provide the kind of enterprise information they want.

Schools receive support and guidance from a Young Chamber Co-ordinator in both setting up and running the Council. There are also powerful online tools available and a growing archive of case studies and events to access.

Students benefit because they are able to meet and talk directly with employers. They gain firsthand experience about the work environment and what employers look for in potential candidates. Young Chamber activities provide students with the opportunity to take responsibility, make decisions and work with others within a business culture.

[youngchamber.com](http://youngchamber.com)





YOUNG  
CHAMBER



## Why businesses get involved

The Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce called Young Chamber 'a pioneering development'. This is because its simple structure provides a powerful framework for student and business engagement.

Businesses recognise the importance of meeting and understanding the students who will shortly come into the labour market. Apart from the obvious opportunity to recruit potential new employees many businesses enjoy the chance to talk about what they do. They are able to highlight the training, characteristics and mindset needed to work in their own industries. Many employers use Young Chamber events to help train their own staff.

Without exception, all the businesses who take part get a real buzz from working with enthusiastic and motivated young people.

Young Chamber is a flexible framework. So, businesses can choose to become involved at the level which best suits them. This can vary from a one off talk about their business up to mentoring a larger scale project over a longer period. Or any option in between.

[youngchamber.com](http://youngchamber.com)





young  
CHAMBER



## Young Chamber background

The Young Chamber idea was born in 2001. Within two years pilot schemes were being run on the Isle of Wight and these were extended to Rotherham, Milton Keynes and Surrey by the end of 2005.

In 2007 DCSF funding was secured and 51 Young Chambers were established across England. A programme of national roll-out continued and by 2008, 145 Young Chambers were underway.

Young Chamber also became a founding partner of the IEBE (formerly the NEBPN).

By 2009, 260 Young Chambers had signed up. The number is expected to grow to some 400 during 2010 with an industrial scale roll-out anticipated of up to 2000+ by the end of 2015.

Young Chamber is owned and developed by YCUK Limited.

YCUK is a social enterprise, not for profit company, limited by guarantee which works with and through the Chamber of Commerce network to continually develop and improve Young Chamber.

[youngchamber.com](http://youngchamber.com)

YCUK