

# CONFIDENT CHOICES



FEBRUARY 2020

# NEWSLETTER

## COLLABORATIVE ENTERPRISE EVENT IN BOSTON IS A GREAT SUCCESS

Over 600 Year 11 students from five schools in Boston put their skills to the test as they took part in a National Enterprise Challenge just before Christmas. Organised by the Boston Confident Choices cluster, with the support of LincHigher and facilitation by The Inspirational Learning Group, the days were judged to be successful in helping students appreciate the range of soft skills required for career success.

Pupils from Haven High Academy, Boston Grammar School, Thomas Middlecott Academy, William Lovell Church of England Academy and Giles Academy were split into mixed teams of six and had to design a product that they would make out of recycled Air Products gas cylinders.

A select number of teams had to present to the room and a winner was chosen on each day by a judging panel, consisting of a local employer and members of the LincHigher team.

Winning teams suggested that the gas cylinders could be turned into wind turbines and beehives.

The challenge was identified by the Boston Confident Choices cluster as being of relevance to Boston students: to raise students' confidence, build on teamwork and communication skills and, to help bridge the transition for Year 11 students to mixed sixth forms, having teams made up of students from different schools.

The event also provided students with some meaningful exposure to employers: LEP Enterprise Advisers were able to send Micronclean to the first day and the Lincolnshire Showground on the second day; the STEM Ambassadors Network sent a representative from BAE Systems on the final day. Each day was also supported by LincHigher's university ambassadors, whilst the second day included support from Boston Grammar School's Sixth Form students.

*Thanks to LincHigher for the majority of this article.*

## UPDATE

This has been a successful first six months for Confident Choices.

Our target for participation in the framework this year was that half of secondary schools would be actively contributing to the clusters. We have already exceeded that with 36 schools involved in the first term and many others showing an interest. We have invited our first FE representative onto the Steering Group and we are planning a primary school pilot project.

The first evaluation was positive. We asked the seven lead schools to comment on the early impact of the framework. Responses were encouraging. We are also now able to target improvement more effectively.

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## WELCOME

This is our second Confident Choices newsletter. As you will read, the project has continued to make encouraging progress.

Please share your stories, successes and calendar events with Richard Hughes, the Project Lead, whose email address is below, and help keep your colleagues encouraged and informed.

Copies of the first newsletter and the initial framework document are available from Emily Wilson, also with address below.

## CONTACTS

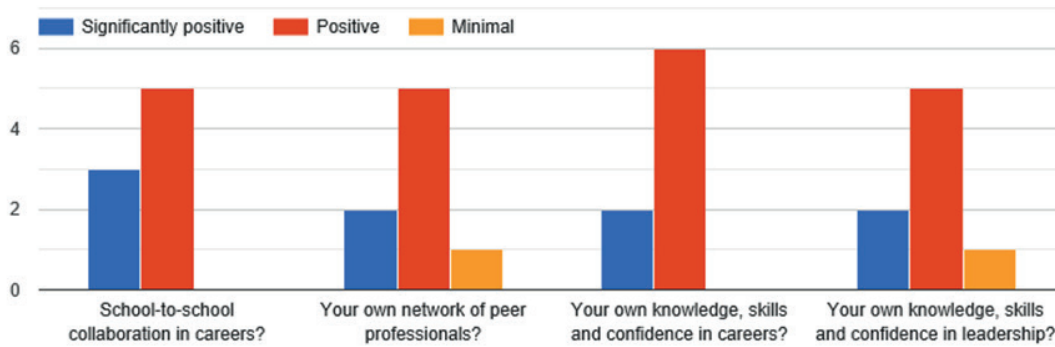
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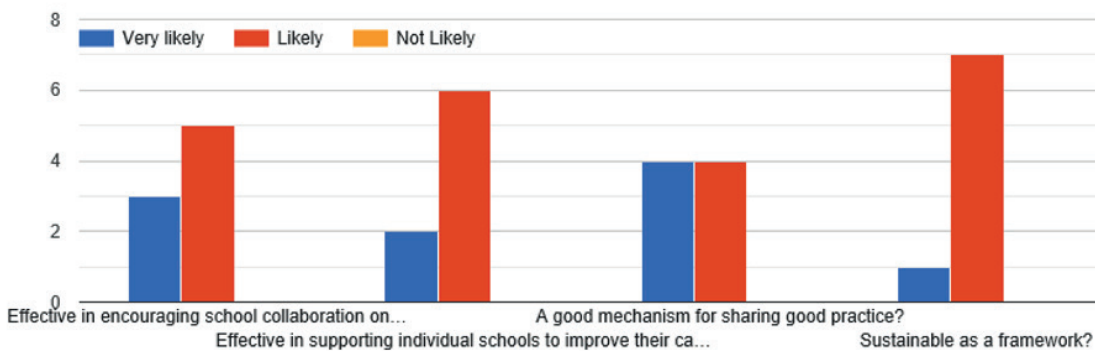
Admin **Emily Wilson**  
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Key responses were:

1. What has been the impact of Confident Choices on:



2. How likely do you think it is that Confident Choices is going to be:



## CONFIDENT CHOICES ENCOURAGING COORDINATION

One of the aims of the Confident Choices framework was to provide more coordinated support for schools. As the three main publicly funded organisations working to support schools’ careers work, we asked the Local Enterprise Partnership, LinCHigher and the DWP to start this work for us. Their response has been really positive.

“Together, the Enterprise Coordinators, the DWP’s School Support Officer and LinCHigher team have been working together to support schools through the Confident Choices framework. What each organisation does has some overlaps but also some distinct differences.

- The Enterprise Coordinators provide more strategic support to schools for meeting the Gatsby benchmarks, by facilitating the Compass tool, and, in particular, bridging the gap between schools/colleges and businesses through their employer contacts with the ‘Give an Hour’ campaign and the Enterprise Advisor Network.
- The DWP’s Schools Support Officer works with 12-18 year olds to prevent them becoming NEET. The Schools Support Officer works closely with the school to provide a tailored approach to identify where support is most needed, including interview skills, employability skills, career stereotyping, labour market information and CV writing.
- LinCHigher also provides a bespoke, tailored package for schools. This has the goal of raising the aspirations of Lincolnshire’s young people (from year 9 upwards) to improve their destinations, particularly towards Higher Education. LinCHigher works with the school and its students to identify the specific barriers to progression and find ways to overcome them. LinCHigher is part of a wider national project called ‘NCOP’, with funding determined by the number of target students in each school – these students are identified by their postcode, where progression to Higher Education is lower than expected based on GCSE attainment.

With the overlaps in what the three organisations do, we are working very closely to ensure that we avoid duplication of activity and are adding value to existing activities that we provide in schools and colleges. The three teams meet quarterly to provide updates on the clusters. So that careers leaders are not having to duplicate the same conversation with three different organisations, the teams meet more regularly on a cluster level to share activity plans and opportunities, and signpost each other to the gaps in provision, or highlight specific barriers that schools/students may face so that, together, we can ensure young people within Lincolnshire and the Confident Choices framework have the best opportunity to succeed and achieve their aspirations.”

## CONFIDENT CHOICES CALENDAR

- 3rd March – Confident Choices headteacher briefing
- 19th March – LEP skills conference
- 27th March – Steering Group Meeting
- 22nd April – Complete Careers conference
- 24th June – Core Maths day

