



It was a huge privilege to win the award for Education Partnership of the Year.

Five years ago though, all we felt was a growing sense of frustration. We were a group of teachers, united by the belief that we should be doing more than just worrying about our students' grades and qualifications.

The question was a challenging one – what would learning look like if we cared as much about students' enterprise skills, experiences of the world and aspirations as we do about their qualifications and progress?

#### The Need

The need clear: The youth unemployment rate had reached 1 in 5 and the number of young people not making a successful transition from school into further education or employment was increasing. The business world was unimpressed by the calibre of recruits with a CBI report summarised by the headline that schools are “churning out the unemployable”.

The challenge was that everyone treated it as an intractable problem and then quietly ignored it. Schools blamed businesses, and businesses blamed schools.

#### Our Approach

Enabling Enterprise only started with the nugget of an idea: To take our students into great businesses to meet the people who worked there and see first-hand what skills and attitudes it would take to achieve their high aspirations. Then, back in the classroom, to give students

the chance to complete a series of projects including producing a radio show, designing a building or setting up a small business.

We worked with 35,000 students last year, from the age of 5 through to 18 year-olds. We're not just about producing the next generation of entrepreneurs although we can help. What we want is to ensure that whatever our young people want to do in life they are enabled,

professional services firms like UBS, Freshfields, Société Générale and RSA Insurance Group. They include great engineering firms like Morgan Motors and retailers like Selfridges and Hamleys toy shop. Together, it means that we can ensure that our students are gaining new experiences, as well as seeing the link between the classroom and the working world as they visit those businesses.

#### Judges said:

“The unique partnership is making a huge difference to young people and broadening their experiences of entrepreneurship and enterprise.”



not held back by key skills: Skills like leadership, teamwork, creativity and problem-solving. We need communicators who can listen and understanding, and who can also present their ideas. We want student who will aim high and stay positive in the face of setbacks.

#### Partnership

It's not a challenge that any individual group can solve – instead, Enabling Enterprise has always been about partnership. Our team of 18, most of whom have been teachers, work with 150 schools and 75 businesses to bring the world of work into the classroom.

Our business partners include

#### The Impact and the Future

We know that this partnership works – not just because we reached 35,000 students but because we tracked the changes in students' enterprise skills. We found that children and young people on our programmes made about twice the progress of a comparison group in terms of their enterprise skills.

The challenge now is to ensure that we continue to build our partnership and our network so that one day, every student leaves school equipped with the skills, experiences of work, and aspirations to be successful. Winning this award will help to accelerate progress towards that vision.

Enabling Enterprise is a social enterprise that works in partnership with 75 top businesses and 150 schools to bring the development of students' skills, experiences and aspirations into the curriculum.

Find out more at [www.enablingenterprise.org](http://www.enablingenterprise.org) | Twitter: @enablingent