

Business in the Community

Business in the Community (BITC) is a British business-community outreach charity promoting responsible business, CSR, corporate responsibility, and is one of the Prince's Charities. BITC works with over 800 UK companies committed to improving their impact on society, and operates throughout the UK, BITC seeks to positively shape business impact on the environment, in the marketplace, in the workplace and in the community. It is an organisation that works with businesses to improve their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) credentials, offering advice and programmes tailored to meet their needs. BITC was set up in 1982.

www.bitc.org.uk



Business in the Community is a unique business movement - the largest business-led charity of its kind - committed to building resilient communities, diverse workplaces and a more sustainable future. This charity works locally, nationally and internationally with members to transform businesses and transform communities.

www.bitc.org.uk/about-us#sthash.UEyjoCat.dpuf

It is a membership organisation for companies that are committed to doing business responsibly and working together on societal issues where they can make a real difference and help transform business and make it sustainable, for the benefit of business **and** the community.

BITC has [five campaign areas](#) on which we ask members to work with us, that impact in the workplace, marketplace and community.

- Education and young people
- Enterprise and culture
- Tackling unemployment
- Marketplace sustainability
- Workplace and employees



BITC provides a supported network for business so that an organisation can

- partner with a school, by signing up to our flagship education programme Business Class,
- guarantee work placements for young people, through our apprenticeships and work experience programmes
- encourage and recognise the value of youth social action.



**TURNING WORK
EXPERIENCE
INTO WORK
INSPIRATION**
A Business in the Community campaign

BITC provides a vital platform for business to work on a long-term, needs-led approach to make a significant difference to the lives of young people right across the UK, both in and out of school.

www.bitc.org.uk/issues/community/education-and-young-people#sthash.KhGSAufN.dpuf

BIS asks businesses to implement employee engagement strategies to enable people to be the best they can at work, recognising that this can only happen if they feel respected, involved, heard, well led and valued by those they work for and with.

www.bitc.org.uk/issues/workplace-and-employees#sthash.5qJwlb9d.dpuf

Fujitsu Appoints its First Two Business Connectors to Support the Communities of Manchester and Basingstoke

Fujitsu UK & Ireland has chosen its first two employees to become Business in the Community (BITC) Business Connectors, to be seconded into their communities to support local initiatives. The two employees will be trained by BITC and tasked with creating connections between the private sector and community organisations. Their salary will be paid in full by Fujitsu throughout their 12-month secondment. The BITC Programme is supported by £4.8m from the Big Lottery Fund, and aims to recruit and support over 670 Business Connectors nationwide over five years. The two Connectors were selected by the CEO at Fujitsu, after a rigorous application process. In total, 50 employees applied. They start their BITC training in early July and will be kicking off on their chosen projects shortly afterwards.

Duncan Tait, CEO at Fujitsu UK & Ireland, said: *“Corporate Social Responsibility is part of Fujitsu’s DNA and we were committed to social and environmental causes long before corporate responsibility gained its place on today’s business agenda.”*

Store lends a hand to help pupils (published 16/05/2013) By Kelly Metcalf

Oakwood Academy is a school for 11-16 year old special needs’ students. The school places great emphasis on helping students to develop their aspirations and plan for their future independent life beyond school. I am delighted that as a result of introducing Tim Dodd, Regional Finance & Operations Manager from Marks & Spencer, to the school, he and his team will be running a retail development programme for a group of students. Delivered as a partnership between Marks & Spencer and the school, this programme will be a fantastic way of students gaining work experience and relevant training to a future career in retail.

Eight students will benefit from the first iteration of the programme which will involve a variety of activities. They will learn about the different job roles within Marks & Spencer; gain an insight in the store itself and behind the scenes; experience practical training in customer services and visual merchandising. In addition, students will: learn how Marks & Spencer works with their supply chain; visit a distribution centre; have the opportunity to practice applying for Marks & Spencer’s job vacancies and complete 2 weeks work experience in a local store.

Speaking about the programme, Tim says: *‘When I first met Oakwood, I was really inspired by their creative approach to vocational education and was keen to see how Marks & Spencer could help. I’m delighted that our staff are able to share their skills, to help students gain real-life experience that will put them in a strong position to gain employment in the future.’*

Liz Capell, Transition Advisor, Oakwood Academy says: *‘We are delighted that Marks & Spencer have chosen to put together this programme for us. The work experience combined with relevant training will be invaluable to our students in growing their confidence when they move into the world of work.’*

www.bitcconnect.org/connectors/salford/posts/39-store-lends-hand-help-pupils-published-16052013