

Getting message across in dramatic style

Special play at St Cuthberts on Friday to promote workplace skills for students

HAILED by some as the biggest change in education for years... a new diploma project which aims to give students real skills for the workplace, gets a 'dramatic' launch in St Helens this week.

The first IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) event in town is a special play being presented at St Cuthbert's Catholic Community College for Business and Enterprise in Berrys Lane, Sutton. The play has been written to get the message across to students, parents and those employers involved in this diploma.

A performance will be held on Friday, 19th September from 2-3pm. The play is being written and performed by the company 'Open the Door' who specialise in creating such educational plays.

Nicola Walker who is heading up the Business Administration and Finance (BAF) diploma said: "The diplomas are the biggest change that has occurred in education.

"The overall aim for delivery of the diploma is to make it an innovative course that will allow students to study key aspects of business administration and finance, learn fundamental skills and be able to apply these within a realistic working environment.

"There will be a large element of employer engagement either through them delivering material or providing an environment for students to apply their knowledge. The whole concept is to make learning fun, exciting and different from traditional learning.

"There will be theoretical elements but the opportunities for creative learning are vast. Students will have to do a final project which will allow them to utilise their skills and knowledge and apply it to a practical assessment.

"Employers often say that school leavers do not have the key skills required when they enter the world of work. This course enables students to learn these skills and apply them. It is our intention to ensure that this course is exciting, different and inspirational for students and to provide them with skills that they can utilise in any route they opt to take."

A number of employers will be taking part in the event to raise awareness that there could be a career available to students should they opt to take this course.

Nicola added: "It isn't all about having a job in an office or sitting behind a desk but to demonstrate that with the skills and knowledge students will gain it could give them access to a variety of career opportunities."

● **Businesses who will be joining in the event include: Pilkington, RBS, Yorkshire Bank, United Utilities, Helena Housing, Co-op, White construction, Scottish Power**