

C2S Connections, an exciting initiative bringing students and the business community together

If you care about young people and your future talent pipeline, you need to get involved!

C2S Connections is a new innovative, initiative, brought together by Co-founders Angela Edwards and Suzanne Hall-Gibbins that tackles the problem of tapping into talent in a productive, sustainable, Covid-safe, cost effective, resourceful way.

"As we continue to see the negative impact the pandemic has had on students, with lack of confidence and inter-personal skills, the impact on their mental health and wellbeing, limited access to the business community and career opportunities, we took it upon ourselves to find a solution to these problems," said Angela

67 out of 70 students completed the survey and over 90% said the event was useful to them.

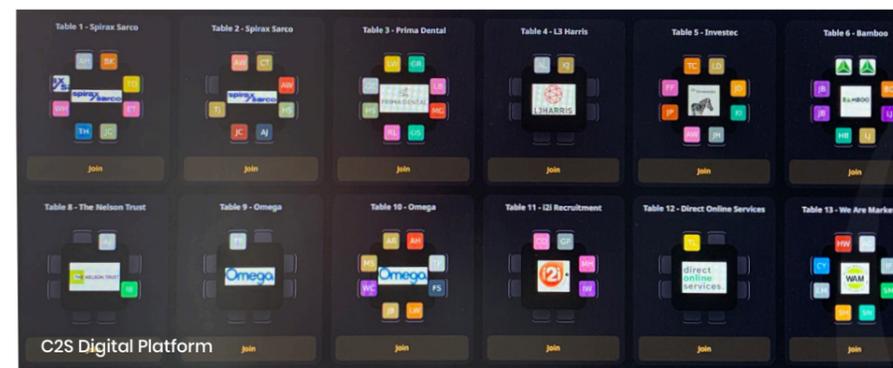
C2S is about helping organisations overcome their challenges, to attain success and the growth goals they have. This cannot be achieved without people, and a source of future talent and the ability to tap into a talent pipeline is vital, many education and business relationships have been lost through Covid and we find ourselves with students that need to connect with businesses and businesses that need to connect to students - all whilst keeping the Covid transmission down, managing resource, reducing costs and the carbon footprint.

C2S took on the challenge and embarked on finding a new way to connect students and the business community, whilst considering these current challenges. Using new technology and our immersive, experiential platform, we connect students and businesses digitally. No travel, no carbon footprint, no Covid and no cost, all whilst students learn valuable new skills and behaviours online for the new digital world we live



St Edward's School Students

This initiative is not meant to replace face-to-face but is another experience for students to talk to business leaders, entrepreneurs, managers, apprentices and graduates, a whole host of new learning and new experiences, all whilst clicking a link and attending school, university or college, a win-win for everyone.



Survey Results

We surveyed both students and businesses to assess the value of this new initiative to both parties, and are working with them to develop a programme that could be rolled out across the UK. The results were very insightful demonstrating the importance of these events, over 90% of students that took part found the event very useful and improved their knowledge about career opportunities. Interestingly it also demonstrated the work that needs to be done to rebuild student confidence after lockdown and Covid. It is no revelation that students suffered hugely during this time, but we must not forget it will take time to rebuild their confidence and communication skills. C2S is committed to this and will be rolling out our C2S Connections initiative across the county and beyond.

STUDENTS SUMMARY

We asked the students 16 questions, from if they found the event useful, to what they would expect from a future employer and how they viewed the opportunities in Gloucestershire. The feedback from the survey demonstrates that this was a resounding success for students.

STUDENTS FEEDBACK

- There are industries that don't need specific qualifications
- Learning what to say in an interview
- Learning what these companies do



Direct Online Services

- I learned that I could submit scripts of my own to organisations
- I have found a few companies I'm interested in
- I have more ideas about future careers
- Talk to people in different industries
- Gained extra information about a variety of businesses
- What qualifications do businesses look for
- Fun
- I learnt about different business opportunities in Cheltenham
- It has helped me narrow down what I want to do in the future
- How to achieve goals
- Very inspiring
- It gave me a greater understanding of what I want to do as a career.
- I enjoyed it
- Found out what made a good CV
- Learnt about new ways to get employed

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Next C2S Connections

31st January 2023 – Online

13th March 2023 – In Person
Visit to Spirax Sarco for students and businesses

www.circle2success.com/c2s-connections-bringing-students-and-the-business-community-together-online/

Be part of our C2S Connections and support future talent, we'd love to hear from you.

Email: angela.edwards@circle2success.co.uk
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C2S Connections

A huge thank you to our sponsors Spirax Sarco, Greg Godfrey-Williams Global Supply Chain, UK Supply Director, and General Manager, Beth Merris - HR Business Partner - UK Supply, and award-winning St Edward's School for supporting C2S Connections.

Together we built new relationships, educated young people on career opportunities, developed digital skills and better prepared young people for the business world. Over 70 students from year 11 and 12 and 15 businesses took part. We held four sessions allowing students to easily move around the digital room, meet four different organisations, followed by a speed networking session.

Our C2S digital platform allows businesses and students to connect with the click of a link, from anywhere in the UK. All you need to take part is a device, computer, phone, tablet, camera, connectivity to Wi-Fi and a headset - We do the rest!



We asked the businesses 18 questions in our survey, here is some of the feedback.

BUSINESS SUMMARY

Some businesses struggled to connect with students online as many students preferred not to use cameras or mic but to communicate in the chat. This is a reflection of modern-day society and the way our young people prefer to communicate today. This highlights the need for support, education and training, and we need educational organisations like St Edward's that are forward thinking to recognise these post-Covid issues and implement strategies to support young people today.

BUSINESS FEEDBACK

- Great engagement with local education
- It is valuable to the firm and junior team members to share their experiences with others as part of a process of 'giving back'. Activities like this contribute to the firm's ESG.
- Great to have the opportunity to spread the word about The Nelson Trust and working or volunteering for charities
- Long-term value for raising awareness of financial planning and investment
- management as career options as well as encouraging students to think and talk about their finances (in their personal lives, not with us!)
- These events will and really do make a huge difference in connecting our business to the new potential talent and the wider world.
- Yes, you gather a good understanding of what students are interested in, and what and where they would like to work.
- It helps the business to get recognition from a younger audience as Spirax isn't a well know company even around Cheltenham.

ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL FEEDBACK

Matthew Burke, Head of St Edward's School, Cheltenham, said: "It was great to be able to bring so many businesses into the school and face-to-face with our students with the use of technology. The breadth of advice and experience was fantastic, and the students are still talking positively about it now. This is the future of careers education and networking, finding out about opportunities and routes into industry gave our students an invaluable insight into career opportunities."

Students got to spend an uninterrupted one and a half hours talking to a wide selection of employers, with the chance to find out about their early careers programmes, routes into industry and opportunities available. Hannah, a Lower 6th student said: "It was great to talk to businesses that could give us ideas about future careers and routes into their industry. I even got to chat with some businesses I hadn't considered before and this gave me some great opportunities to explore further."



Matthew Burke, Head of St Edward's School

"Students have missed out over the last few years with face-to-face engagement with local employers and it was so wonderful to be able to offer this to our students," said Mrs Lloyd, Careers Lead and UCAS Advisor at St Edward's School. "It highlighted for us the need to engage even more with our local businesses, encourage our students out of their comfort zone and embrace the opportunities offered."



Award-winning St Edward's School, Cheltenham

“The feedback we got from students was fantastic, it clearly demonstrated the value they get from the opportunity to connect with businesses from all sectors”

Thank you for your support

Thank you to all the organisations that took part, from manufacturing and engineering to cyber, law, sport and e-commerce.

