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WATER WAY TO RAISE MONEY!

Birmingham students bottle skills picked up during BT's Work Inspiration Week

Students from a Birmingham school, who took part in a challenging careers awareness initiative, were so inspired they are putting into practice what they have learned - and at the same time raising money for a good cause.

The group from International School and Community College, in Tile Cross, were among 150 young people from around Birmingham and the Black Country who were put through their paces at a Work Inspiration Week, organised by BT recently.

Over the course of the five days they took part in a series of workshops and challenges to give the participants a better insight into the world of work, as well as to inspire ideas about what career paths they might eventually choose.

One of the tasks involved working with the One Water Foundation charity, which helps to raise money to provide fresh, clean water to some of the poorest parts of Africa.

Armed with their new-found skills, and touched by the work of the charity, the International School students are now turning their hand to selling bottles of One Water Foundation water to fellow pupils, in a manner that might impress even the likes of Lord Sugar.

BT staff who co-ordinated Work Inspiration Week have been so taken by the group's drive and determination that they have agreed to provide the first pallet of bottles to help kick-start the entrepreneurial venture, which begins this week and will continue into the next academic year.

The year 10 students have formed their own company called CHASHAM International, by taking the first letter of each of their surnames – Curtis Cahill, Karine Harber, Mubarak Abdi, Taonga Sakala, Kierren Horne Siddique Ahmed and Lewis Moseley.

They said: "Being part of this mission to rid Africa of its thirst is an honour and we are

glad that we can all do our bit to help.

“We are inspired by what we believe are the four essential elements of life – to live, to laugh, to love and to share – to live the children of Africa need water; to laugh they need a play area; to love they need to be alive; and to share we need everyone’s help and support.”

Allan Witherington, Assistant Head, said: “The students were truly inspired by the BT Work Inspiration Week.

“As the school’s specialism is in Business and Enterprise, we have encouraged them to approach the project as a business, which has come quite naturally to them as they are keen viewers of ‘The Apprentice’.

“They are all able students with high aspirations who aim to go to university and into professional careers. They are following courses that could lead to up to 12 good grade GCSEs including Citizenship and the demanding triple science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) option.

“In these courses they have studied the impact of water shortages worldwide and have developed an enthusiasm to make a practical contribution to help solve the problem.”

Caroline Waters, BT’s director of People and Policy, said: “Inspiring young people about their future through programmes such as Work Inspiration is just one way in which we can help broaden young people’s perception of the possibilities for their futures. Seeing these students putting into practice some of the skills they have learned in such a positive way shows what a worthwhile initiative it is.”

Issued by the BT regional press office. For more information please contact Emma Tennant on 0800 085 0660 or email: emma.tennant@bt.com

For more information about the young entrepreneurs please contact Allan Witherington at the International School and Community College on 0121 464 9609.

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