

TITLE

Developing entrepreneurial minds

KEY CONCEPTS

21st century skills, authentic learning, student-driven, nurturing creativity, mapped to curriculum

NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

Mr Brown's students are tasked with identifying a business-related problem and then developing creative ways to address and solve the problem. Students choose topics they are interested in and that support development of their entrepreneurial skills and knowledge through real-life, relevant tasks (eg setting up a coffee bar, making cosmetics, understanding difficult topics, designing the next game, setting up a local charity). The problem includes tasks from a range of subjects, including data analysis (eg supply and demand), marketing, and business planning and writing. Mr Brown works with students to identify how the tasks can be mapped to the school's curriculum.

A separate space called a 'hatchery' is set up within the classroom or school where students can develop and nurture the ideas they want to 'hatch'. Students are connected with 'ambassadors' within the local and wider community who have knowledge or expertise related to the students' topics. They can also access a support network of local and internationally based peers and experts via an online community and a series of webinars and events. With this guidance of external experts, peers and their teacher, students build on the initial concept of their ideas to realise their ideas. Students present their ideas to a panel of ambassadors and to the online community for feedback and ideas for further development.

TREND/S

The financial crisis continues – The fallout of the financial crisis is set to continue, with many EU countries facing massive debts and making big spending cuts. At present, this is affecting the job market and is decreasing young people's chances to access jobs.

The rise of Asia - China and India are educating more engineers and scientists than the US and Europe combined, and this gap is likely to increase in the future, leading to fiercer competition on the global job market for high-value jobs. This trend, combined with the enduring difference in labour costs between Western and Asian countries, is having a negative impact on young graduates' opportunities in Europe, as many companies can hire from a wider pool at a lower cost.

VISION (ASPIRATIONS & AIMS)

- to develop entrepreneurship in young people and add to their competitiveness in the job market through engagement in real, relevant and purposeful tasks

ENVIRONMENT

- communication across schools and across countries to access experts/peer mentoring
- 'hatchery' – separate space within the classroom/school where ideas can be 'hatched'

PEOPLE & ROLES

- ambassadors: to include successful business people, positive role models, local industry people, local decision makers; evaluate student projects
- students: direct and plan own learning, choose topic related to interests, support others
- teachers: coordinate activity, support students, access ambassadors

INTERACTIONS (INCL. PEDAGOGIES)

- data-analysis (demand and supply)
- role-play
- problem-based enquiry

ACTIVITIES

- students undertake relevant and purposeful activities related to the task.
- webinars/events
- problem-based activity to develop business skills

RESOURCES (INCL. TECHNOLOGIES)

- 'people bank' and online community space - a network of teachers, experts and classrooms, always on and easily customisable and expandable
- series of related webinars/online events
- mechanism for communication across schools and countries to access experts and peers