



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & TRAINING
23 Queensway
Gibraltar

Minister for Education & Training, The Hon C G Beltran

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Speech by Minister Clive Beltran at the Young Enterprise Company Competition Presentations 2011 at the Rock Hotel on Thursday 12th May.

It is with a huge amount of pride and satisfaction that I join you in this afternoon's proceedings. Pride, because Young Enterprise in Gibraltar is an example of what can be achieved for the benefit of young people and ultimately the community as a whole when individuals, organisations and Government work together for the common good. Satisfaction, because a project that had a rather tentative start in 2008 is still very much alive in 2011 and has already had a large measure of success and glory both in Gibraltar and abroad. This is not to say, however, that we must rest on our laurels. To keep Young Enterprise alive requires a commitment, drive and stamina that I know our teachers and the business advisers who lead the initiative most certainly have. We must also ensure that our students continue to be just as excited and determined to succeed as they have always been.

The Young Enterprise Schemes form part of the Government's overall architecture of vocational opportunities available to young people and I am very happy at the way and the numbers in which students from the College, Bayside School and to some extent also Westside School have responded to the Company Programme as well as the Teams and other Programmes.

One of the key objectives of YE is "releasing the entrepreneurial flair and potential of our young people". What has come across very clearly over these last three years is that the net effect of the scheme on our students goes well beyond their personal development as individuals and actually acts as an inspiration to the College or School as a whole. Teachers and students have developed a sense of ownership of a scheme that acts as a catalyst with many other students now wishing to take part and not shying away from making a positive contribution to school or college life.

The scheme continues to be successful in engaging students in their work and developing very positive relationships with their teachers. They quickly develop

noticeable improvements in their self-esteem, their self-confidence and level of maturity. The skills required to engage in social and business networking, in developing positive relationships with their peers in a work environment are also developed substantially.

There is no doubt, therefore, that participating in YE effectively complements the theoretical work covered in the Business Studies and indeed the other courses the students follow in School or the College. It is also true that the skills, techniques and attitude to work acquired stand those students who apply for a place in University in very good stead. Those who prefer to seek employment or even start their own business will have acquired expertise and contacts that should increase their chances of success in the future. In fact we mustn't forget that over these first three years since YE was started in Gibraltar, already three of the competing companies have gone on to trade and are now established as part of Gibraltar's business community. I believe that this is a wonderful achievement that all of us, and especially the former students themselves, should be extremely proud of. It also vindicates the investment made and sustained over three years now by the teachers, business advisers and the Gaggero Foundation to all of whom I extend my warmest congratulations and gratitude.

I thank you all for your contribution in this very worthwhile and bold enterprise that is paying good dividends in the general education of our young people and also doing its bit to encourage them to participate in what is one of the pillars of our economy.