



The Company of Cutlers' Education Committee Report, 2017-18

The Cutlers Company Better Learners Better Workers (BLBW) continues to be highly valued by students, teachers and parents and has played a significant role in the lives of hundreds of young people in the Sheffield City Region. As would be expected Engineering has the most students engaged in the programme with the health sector also very active.

For the past six years Chris Edwards has played a pivotal role in the management of the scheme and that has now passed to Sheffield City Council. Chris did an exceptional job in creating a complete structure for the scheme and on behalf of the Cutlers Company I would like to pass on our grateful thanks to him.

The education sector is under considerable financial pressure at the present time and many schools are having to make cost savings to make their books balance. As a result some schools are not able to fund students at £250 per student and we are expecting a reduction in the numbers of Ambassadors next year. In addition the scheme suffers from being selective (students are selected on the basis of those who would benefit the most from participation) rather than being a whole school approach.

Schemes from Government and other sources continue to inundate schools, many of which are free and some of dubious value, however the quality of BLBW is such that schools continue to support us.

The increased managerial involvement of Sheffield City Council is a welcome development and they are undertaking a strategic review of the scheme in the light of current conditions in the education sector. As ever the high standards of quality associated with the Cutlers' Company will be maintained in any new developments.

The scheme is excellently supported by Colonel George Kilburn of the Cutlers' Company and by Sarah Ward as well as a number of Champions from the Company's Freemen. The latter give their time and valuable experience to the schools and students. As Chairman of the Education Committee and on behalf of the Cutlers Company I wish to thank them for their commitment and help.

This year is the first in which the Committee has taken on the wider brief of education on behalf of the Company and new ideas continue to be considered.

Douglas B Liversidge CBE
Chairman