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DOING THE BUSINESS

Finance chief backs city pupils' business focus

by **BEN TURNER**
Education Reporter

A CITY school bidding to create future entrepreneurs has banked the approval of a finance chief.

Sefton Park's Bellerive Catholic college has signed up to an innovative game created for secondary students by city-based financial experts and education specialists Ambitious Minds.

The interactive Keep The Cash! game involves a simulation which gives pupils the experience of what it will be like when they have to make their own financial decisions as independent adults.

Bellerive students were put through the simulation, tasked with managing their money to pay bills and cope with debt.

They also had to write CVs and attend mock job interviews so they could fund their lifestyle aspirations.

But the pupils had the added pressure of making the tough financial choices in front of one of the country's most senior accountants.

An impressed Clive Parritt, the president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales, visited the girls' school to see how its sixth-form students were learning the skills to be able to manage their finances as independent adults.

He said using innovative tools like the game would pay dividends.

Mr Parritt said: "I think the general idea of improving the financial literacy of young adults who are about to leave and go out into the real world is really useful.



IN PROFIT: Elle-Mia Peacock, Charlotte Kennedy and Charlie Lord with Clive Parritt, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and, left, it adds up to success for Hollie Bray and Charlotte Rigby

Pictures: PAUL HEAPS/PH25111 | BELLERIVE-1.jpg

"Financial literacy in this country is a huge problem and anything which actually contributes to the better understanding to the use and understanding of money has to be good."

Bellerive college's endorsement came as pupils across the city battle it out to reach the next stage of Liverpool council's Great Enterprise Challenge, with a trip to Washington

DC going to two winning teams.

This month five primary and five secondary schools will be unveiled as finalists and asked to pitch against each other as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Liverpool in March.

Schools were given a start-up fund of £100 to develop their business ideas with the 20 best given a further £250.

Schools getting involved include Alsop high, in Walton.

Pupils set up a promotional video company called Pear Productions and even arranged a video call to learn from a Microsoft official.

Other enterprises included pupils at Bank View high, Fazakerley, baking cakes and making planters and jewellery while pupils from Ranworth primary, in Norris Green,

are selling tartan-clad dolls.

Pupils at Anfield infants set up Child's Eyes Liverpool, selling products with images of the city including best-seller Liver Bear.

Cllr Gary Millar, Liverpool council's assistant cabinet member to the leader, who came up with idea for the challenge, said: "Entrepreneurial spirit is alive and kicking in our schools."