

Funds and Fundraising Guide

How do we raise funding?

Every year we are amazed by the creative business ideas that from part of Formula Schools, we have outlined some of the many ways in which you can help yourselves to get off the ground, below are some of the routes that you could take.

Use internal school links. Staff, especially head teachers may know of companies in the area that have helped the school previously and may be willing to help again. They can be approached by a member of staff who is helping with the project or students in the right way, or your head may wish to contact them if they already have a known contact within that company.

Ask parents. Parents may have positions within companies and access to support that could help your team. As they have family members in school, they also have a personal interest in seeing the school improve in performance and stature within the community.

Good old yellow pages. This is a route usually sought for specific technical support or specialist industry in your area that you may not know about such as vacuum formers, welders, material suppliers, composite manufactures etc. You may also find larger companies who may have an interest or engineering bias, or others that may just be prepared to help out in the local community.

The Royal Society - Schools can apply for partnership grants of up to £3000 to support teachers and engineers to work to inspire young people. Go to www.royalsoc.ac.uk/partnership

Local EBP (education business partnership). The EBP may already have a list of specialist companies in your area that would consider assisting in a project, and may have worked in partnership with schools before. Search on www.nebpn.org/regions.htm for your local EBP.

Shape the Future Fund - The Shape the Future campaign aims to help organise the promotion of engineering and technology in schools which has a fund linked to it. Go to www.shapethefuture.org.uk

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET) - Aims to ensure more young people in the UK make a choice to enter related careers at all levels, and future generations are properly informed about the science and technology that surrounds them. Go to www.stemnet.org.uk/about_stemnet.cfm

Gifted and Talented—www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/giftedandtalented

Scottish Training Federation—www.stf.org.uk

These are all routes that you could explore, but you will have to approach them in the right way. This is not just a simple letter that requests money or help!

What is the best approach?

To make the right impression, it is best to be armed with details of the project, your school and be ready to explain how their input will help and what they get in return. This is best done with the production of a sponsorship pack. This pack can take more time to make, but may well be a vital tool in securing support in whatever means for your team.