



Students **A**cquiring **S**kills - just do it!

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**Leeds Enterprise  
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## A few words from the Chairman, Miles Mount

I have been asked a few times why I, and all the other LEAP volunteers, the Board, Enterprise Teachers and Business Mentors, devote our time to working with schools and students. The answer is simple! We all get a lot of pleasure from helping students gain confidence and skills that may make a tremendous difference to their future success and happiness.

This last year I was also asked "Why does LEAP have competitions, why not let everyone be a winner?" The answer is again simple. In real life when you go for a job interview only one person is successful, and however suitable other candidates may be, on this particular occasion they are not the winners. This also applies for University places and other selection processes. Should the "losers", no that is the wrong word, should the "not the winner this time" give up – no, they must relish the experience and learn from any feedback.

Probably the best advice I can give any of the students, and also all the volunteers, is "put on your listening ears". This is an expression we use with my 3 year old granddaughter. What it basically means is we should all listen to feedback, follow any instructions, not go off in a huff because we do not like what is being said and aim to do better in the future.

One last point before I stop rambling. One of our Business Mentors asked me to define their role. The Business Mentor or Advisor is there to "nudge not do", "guide not steer" and to answer any questions that crop up, or at least point the students in the direction where they can get an answer. Just remember how we would all help our children with their homework – we help the student to do the work themselves, explaining where necessary but never actually doing it ourselves [I hope!].

Have Fun – the more you participate the more you will get out of the LEAP experience.

Miles

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