

New Connect app ... Released Monday 26th March

We are always eager to provide new and exciting opportunities for students of all ages. Giving students a chance to develop their understanding of the world of work, and how a business is run in 'real life', is something we feel passionately about. Last year, we were fortunate enough to be contacted by a local businessman, John Harris, who wanted to give young people the opportunity to design or create a business idea.

John Harris commented "I would like young people to have the same opportunities in life that I have been fortunate enough to enjoy – opportunities created by themselves for themselves; to use their imagination to pursue their own paths rather than necessarily following the well-trodden ones of others and to build their own future, built on their own initiative, resolve and fortitude."

The winning group created a business plan to create an app for students in school to access our Connect system that is already in place, so that students are able to view information easily (such as their homework tasks, map of the school and the rewards system) on mobile devices.

Drew Bevan, Ellie Lossing-Smith and Grace Noakes, now Year 9 students, were delighted to be crowned the winners of this competition and to receive the funding from Mr Harris to set the initiative up.

Ian Yardley, Managing Director of [School Apps Ltd](#), met with the winning team to discuss their ideas for the app and was especially pleased with the suggestion of bringing an interactive school map onto the Connect platform. The feature will be particularly useful for new year 7 students, who will be able to view the map via a link from their online timetable in the app.

We are really excited to be able to launch the app from Monday 26th March to the first two year groups – Year 10 & Year 11, with the remaining 3 year groups following in April.

There are many features on the app for parents/carers, students and staff and we hope that it will work alongside the current Connect system. It will allow students to access a whole range of information such as; keeping track of the rewards they receive, accessing their timetable, a map of the school and homework. As well as this, students will have access to the school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which will enable easier access to resources and revision materials.

The winning students, Grace, Ellie and Drew commented "We took part because we wanted to get involved in the wider school community by creating a product or concept that students would find useful. We created an app which allows students to have easy access to view school information such as homework, rewards and extra-curricular clubs. We are really pleased we won because it means we can have our idea made for students in order to aid them day to day around school."

The 'Connect VLE' app is available for free on [Apple's App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#).

