

Paul Hopwood Consulting Ltd.

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Facilitator Sarah Hopwood



Is 'strategy' the way forward for our children?

Can all children be strategic?

As adults we often hear we are now a product of our childhood i.e. the result of believing what we heard or saw as youngsters. If this is true the responsibility we have to nurture and reassure our young is immense. Schools are already addressing this issue by delivering Happiness or Wellbeing lessons, Pastoral care is more important now than ever before and Enterprise Days, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and other pursuits are popular opportunities found in and outside the curriculum. Indeed, to the delight of schools, companies large and small are involving themselves in Education. They are buying in at all levels – from donating their time and expertise to wining and dining university students; (or like us, running Excellence Programmes for Yr 10 -12 students,) in all types of schools as part of their community service programme. Yes, I believe any child able to rationalise their thoughts can be taught to be strategic and it all begins with the importance of how they/we think.

Why do you think children should be taught to be strategic?

As Business Improvement Consultants we work closely with Business Owners developing their Business Strategy. Are the foundations of the company right, what are your core values and what will differentiate you in your chosen market? We believe if you are strategic in the way you run your business, or perhaps more importantly your life, you will be successful. Our primary clients are Professional Service Firms, Business Owners and Senior Executives. All of them know only too well the business world is changing fast! It's now a level playing field out there; 'the world is flat' as we all compete for jobs and business. Consequently some associates are keen to encourage their children to be strategic too. This is not to be manipulative but to carefully look at where you are now, visualise where you would like to be in the future and then work out how you are going to get there.

What do you mean by the importance of how we think?

We believe the way we think determines how we live our lives. It affects everything we say and do and is reflected in our mannerisms and body language. Understanding the impact of this is something I try to be aware of everyday. Are we not responsible to ourselves and others to never underestimate the consequences (good or bad) of how we think? I believe investing in caring for our minds is almost more important than anything else as it can lead to good powerful consequences. Rightly there are many discussions about the quality of food and drink we consume but how careful are we about the mental food we digest? What are we or our children reading, watching or possibly more importantly who are we listening to?

How do you teach children to be strategic?

I run 3 Programmes. 'Equipping Young Adults for Life' is the umbrella title where I deliver 1-1 coaching teaching young adults to be S.M.A.R.T. I also achieve this by running workshops or the Excellence Programme previously mentioned. Most young adults are unsure of their direction in life, so if there is little or no sense of purpose, peer pressure will reign supreme leading to a lack of confidence and self esteem, disharmony in the family, unhappiness and academic underachievement. I encourage students to unpack and focus on their unique gift. I tease out those often hidden talents allowing each person to grow in confidence helping them avoid getting caught up with inappropriate behaviour and the dilemmas associated with young adulthood. By providing a blend of strategy, facilitation, 1-1 coaching, guidance and reassurance confidence does increase! This enables students to feel in control, and *responsible* for their own actions, decision making and well-being equipping them to set and work towards their personal/career goals. (I also deliver strategies to combat 'Bullying')

These programmes are aimed at young adults between the ages of 14 to 20+ years old. They will have the opportunity to work in large and small groups, with like-minded peers, or one-to-one with me, where the approach will be dependent upon individual need, include the opportunity for each student to be strategic, learn some helpful problem-solving tools they can use throughout their early adult years, finishing by setting their chosen goals for their future.

What does S.M.A.R.T. mean?

I can give you the answer, respond to comments and questions over coffee at a mutually convenient time.

How to contact:

Website www.paulhopwoodconsulting.co.uk



Programmes are:

Equipping Young Adults for Life - 1-1 coaching

Mindshop Excellence yr 10-12: 1 week

Junior Excellence Yr 7-10: 3 hour workshop

Senior Problem Solving Excellence Yr 11-13: 3 hour workshop

Tailored Session (Special Needs to Oxbridge): 3 hour workshop

Keynote Speaker on Bullying whilst in Education or the Workplace