

Empowering Event for Building Futures Students at Montalto Estate - 14/3/24

In a step towards empowering women in the workforce, WOMEN'STEC, Bolster Community and Women In Business NI hosted an employability event at the Montalto Estate as part of their Building Futures programme. This event gathered a notable audience, including aspiring female professionals and established entrepreneurs, to discuss career development and opportunities in various industries.

The Building Futures Programme is a partnership between WOMEN'STEC, Bolster Community and Women in Business NI. The Programme is funded by the UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities under the Sharing Prosperity Fund.

The aim of the Building Futures Programme is to support economically inactive women in accessing skills and support to work towards or gain sustainable employment or self-employment. Through workshops, courses, and events like the one at Montalto Estate, the programme equips women with the skills and confidence needed to thrive in their chosen careers, with support along the way.

The event featured insightful talks from female entrepreneurs including Suzie Lee Arbuthnot, a celebrated chef and television personality; Laura Byrne, an innovative fashion entrepreneur and stylist; Bridgeen King, a noted hairstylist and salon owner; and Sinead McDermott, an art and design teacher and business owner. Each shared their journey, challenges, and successes, providing inspiration and practical advice to attendees with a chance for a Q&A at the end.

The event allowed attendees the opportunity to engage directly with employers through informal networking, take part in relaxation sessions and learn some more about careers in Newry, Mourne and Down and the Greater Belfast Area. Additionally, student's gained

an invaluable insight into the realities of starting and sustaining a successful career as a woman in today's competitive landscape.

Moreover, the event was supported by a variety of employers including Finnebrogue, Lydian Care, Sure Start and #Champions CHC Group, who are supporters for WOMEN'STEC's #NotJustForBoysChampions initiative. Representatives from CHC Group were available to discuss potential employment opportunities and career pathways available within their organisation, emphasising their commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce.

"Our Building Futures programme is about more than just skill-building; it's about creating a community where women can find support, inspiration, and real opportunities," said Rachel Miles, Programme Manager for Building Futures at WOMEN'STEC.

"Events like this at the Montalto Estate are essential in bridging the gap between training and employment, and in showcasing the range of paths our students can pursue."

For more information about the Building Futures programme and upcoming events, please visit www.womenstec.org or contact WOMEN'STEC on 02890 749810.



