

EducationObserver

Graduates celebrate new qualification success

Students are leading the way

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An MP has congratulated the first graduates of a new leadership course.

Leigh MP and Labour candidate for Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham attended a special presentation event held for the first group of students to complete the Young Leaders Programme.

The programme, which is run by Lancashire company British School of Coaching (BSC) and is accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM), is the first professional leadership qualification for young people aged 14 to 24 years.

The new graduates are Josh Aspey, 16, Charlie Abbott, 16, Jess Walton, 21, Josh

Aubrey-Williams, 16, and Charles Wickham, 21.

Ben Davidson, 15, also graduated but was unable to attend the presentation and will receive his certificate at a later date.

ILM Director of Business Development, Becky James, presented the students with framed certificates in front of their families and a packed room of BSC Network members and praised the hard work of the students for achieving success in the new qualification.

Mr Burnham congratulated the young graduates on their achievement and emphasised the importance of developing leadership skills, resilience, decision-making and problem-solving; all skills that are essential in the workplace.

He added that he had discussed the course with Judith

Barton, Director of Studies for BSC, and was impressed at the opportunity provided for young people to differentiate and to develop confidence.

He said: "I think every school should be offering this qualification."

BSC Director of Studies, Judith Barton, said employers as well as young people themselves had been asking for help in developing the skills essential to enter the workplace and further education.

"The programme has been designed to give this specific age group life-long learning skills and to build self-esteem so they feel confident about their future, whatever they decide to do," she said.

She also plans to extend the programme to schools and colleges and welcomes enquiries from interested education establishments direct or from businesses that



Andy Burnham (centre) with tutor John Parkinson, Young Leaders Charlie Abbott, Josh Aspey and Jess Walton with Director of Studies Judith Barton

would like to incorporate this as a community support part of their corporate social responsibility plan.

■ For further information about individual or bespoke group programmes for schools and organisations

looking to add to their CSR programme should contact amy@britishschoolofcoaching.com.