

## Bucks and Milton Keynes Schools Go Head-to-Head at The Big Challenge Lunch

Today saw Bucks and Milton Keynes Schools go head-to-head at the much-anticipated Big Challenge Lunch held by Action4Youth.

The day was a blend of healthy competition, enthusiasm, and community spirit as four Milton Keynes and four Buckinghamshire Schools competed in eight challenges with the goal of a £1000 prize for the winning school.

The theme throughout the day was 'employability and the future workforce', which is critical given the importance of young people being confident and work-ready when they leave school.

The event, held at The Ridgeway Centre, witnessed a friendly competition between the two counties and featured an inspiring talk by Somerset cricketer James Hildreth. James shared his experiences and valuable lessons about teamwork, leadership, and resilience.

James said *"It's an honour to be here today. My advice to young people is to stay curious – you can be knocked back but sometimes you need to go backwards to go forwards. As a batter, you fail more than you succeed. Some great advice that stuck with me is, you can only control the controllable's. Life is a rollercoaster but use the knockbacks to review and reflect and get to be where you want to be."*

Highlights of the day included not only seeing all the young people having a great time but also watching the awards.

A huge congratulations to Sophie Bannerman from Aylesbury Vale Academy (AVA) who won the Outstanding Achievement Award and £100s.

Sophie joined Action4Youth programmes as a shy young person and she has grown into a confident young adult with the confidence to present in front of her peers.

Sir Thomas Fremantle School from Buckinghamshire gained the highest score and won the Ultimate Challenge Cup and £1000 for their school.

And finally, Buckinghamshire Council won The Ultimate Challenge Cup – council, presented by Nathan Kennard from Unity Place.

Milton Keynes Councillor Peter Marland said *"It doesn't matter that we came second, we can come again next year! Well done to everyone who took part. You are from a fantastic area, and you can be everything you want to be."*

Action4Youth CEO Jenifer Cameron said, "We're thrilled by the success of The Big Challenge Lunch, where our community came together for a day of fun, competition, and inspiration. It truly highlights the power of collaboration and the spirit of our local councils,".

For more information about Action4Youth visit [www.action4youth.org](http://www.action4youth.org)



#### NOTES FOR EDITORS

Action4Youth is a local charity dedicated to transforming young lives and providing life-enhancing experiences for young people. With over 70 years of experience, Action4Youth's programmes and services aim to inspire, challenge, and equip young individuals to reach their full potential.

#### For press enquires please contact:

Hayley Horlock, Communications Executive  
Email: [Hayley.horlock@action4youth.org](mailto:Hayley.horlock@action4youth.org)