



## NEWS RELEASE

### STUDENTS BECOME NEWSHOUNDS

Students from The Milton Keynes Academy will be making the news on Thursday 11 March.

Twenty Year 9 students will be taking part in the national BBC News School Report – creating their own news bulletins to be shown on the BBC and Academy websites.

In preparation, the students have been investigating stories and acting as real-life reporters for the past couple of weeks.

“It’s been a fantastic experience for them,” said Performing Arts teacher Darren Thomson, “The children involved had only ever watched television before, but within a fortnight they have learned skills to produce professional news reports from scratch. They have impressed everyone with their outstanding enthusiasm and talent.”

Staff from community internet channel AskMK.tv has been working with the students, mentoring and training them how to operate cameras, record sound, research stories, interview and present news reports in preparation for the big day.

The young newshounds have been interviewing staff and students who will be raising money for Sport Relief later this month. They have also grilled local business leaders and have reported on young entrepreneurs who are running their own companies within the Academy.

The Milton Keynes Academy is one of 700 secondary schools across the UK taking part in the BBC News School Report.

Ex-teacher and BBC News presenter, Huw Edwards, is lending his support to the project. He says: “I’m involved because I want to give young people the chance to make the news themselves, and I want to share the principles of good journalism.”

On Thursday 11 March at 2pm the students will be broadcasting their news, covering the stories of the day as well as their special reports.

end

## **Notes for Editors:**

There is more information about this project on the BBC website [www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport)

### **The Milton Keynes Academy**

The Academy, which is based at Leadenhall, has 1,500 places for 11-18 year olds and employs more than 200 teachers and support staff.

At the heart of the new school is an Enterprise Hub designed to play a major role in delivering the Academy's Business and Enterprise specialism.

Students spend most of their time in year group 'learning villages' and then move to specially equipped areas of the Academy including a suite of seven science laboratories, a cricket oval, an athletics track, and a film and recording studio.

### **Edge**

Independent education foundation Edge is the sponsor of The Milton Keynes Academy. Edge is dedicated to raising the status of practical and vocational learning, so that all young people have the opportunity to achieve their potential, and the UK's future workforce is equipped with the skills to be successful in the modern economy. Edge believes that 'learning by doing' is as important as academic learning, and that there are many paths to success. Visit [www.edge.co.uk](http://www.edge.co.uk) for more information.

[miltonkeynesacademy.co.uk](http://miltonkeynesacademy.co.uk)

**For more details please call Julie Wilson at Planet Communications on 0845 603 8082.**