Frequently asked Questions (FAQs) on new Company Charging

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Q1: What's happening?

A: Young Enterprise Company Programme has, in the South East, been charged for on a student by student basis. This is changing. From September 2009 there will be a single fee of £500 per company.
(The Company Registration fee of £80 will remain separate, as this is paid by each YE company and is invoiced by YE-UK.)

Q2: Why are you changing things?

A: For a number of reasons-:
- It helps schools to plan and allocate the budget more easily as the fee is fixed no matter how many students take part.
- It allows schools to be comfortable in promoting the opportunity at the outset to benefit more students without incurring extra costs. A per Company fee will be helpful in addressing the Diplomas. As Company Programme can be used by schools as part of the Principle Learning and Project work (levels1and 2), schools are increasingly incorporating Young Enterprise and the per company charge will mean a greater number of students are able to benefit.. For further information, please refer to our 'Service Description'.
- Knowing in advance the likely number of companies helps our local volunteer Area boards and Young Enterprise South East (YESE) staff to plan ahead to identify, recruit and train the number of business advisers needed.
- It makes the administration for schools and for Young Enterprise much more straight forward and reduces the risk of disqualification of a company because they have not paid by the deadline.

Q3: How has the fee per company been calculated?

A: The charge will not actually be increasing. The per Company fee has been based on maintaining for a 3rd year the equivalent per student charge of £40 a head. It has been calculated by taking into account the average number of students per company over the year which is 12.5. At the existing charge of £40 a student, this equates to £500 per company..

Q4: Can I increase the number of students taking part without any extra cost?

A: Yes, but the company should still be of manageable size. Although as many as 25 students can take part, the optimum number is 15-16. You can encourage more to join if the reason for a smaller company before was the charge.

Q5: My companies are generally only 6, so it will cost me twice as much – what is your position?

A: The main benefit of the change is to encourage more students to take part so that they can gain the benefits of this experience.
- Although some small companies can do very well in the programme, too few students can sometimes place extra pressure on them. The more students there are in a company the more skills they can bring and tasks shared, this will help their company succeed. Please try to encourage companies of at least 10, not least because of the main Functions for the company.

- Larger groups often benefit as within them students will have a wider range of skills and talents - organisation, leadership, creativity, IT, competence etc.
- Smaller companies can sometimes be de-motivating for volunteer Business Advisers (BAs) who give freely their time and commitment. In a small company sometimes only 2-3 students are able to attend meetings as the rest of the team may have other obligations on a particular day.

Q6: My school will struggle to pay the fees because we normally only run a small group – can you help us?

A: In some cases, schools gain the support from small/medium size local companies and organisations such as Rotary or ask parents to pay a voluntary contribution; schools could also apply direct for community (or equivalent) grants to their local district/borough councils; In addition there are a number of budgets available to schools that YE Company Programme qualifies for, depending on the school this can include enterprise, WRL, specialist schools, academy and community budgets. The new Diplomas also have a budget. If you would like to discuss options on this or see our Company Programme mapping documents with the national curriculum, please contact your local YE Development Manager.

Q7: Is there any fee for bigger companies?

A: No, the same fee applies however many students are in the company, but please bear in mind the optimum number (see below).

Q8: How does it work for students to be in bigger companies?

A: The optimum number of students in a company is 15-16. With this size of company all students can become a Director or a Deputy Director of each Function in addition to the MD and Deputy MD roles. It is often common practice for students to swap some of the departmental roles part way through the programme so all gain experience of leading and can include the positions they held on their CV.
Large companies of 20+ is not always ideal in a practical sense as it can lead to communication problems as well as to leave some achievers with little to do.

Q9: If I run with two companies, will I pay two lots of fees?

A: Yes

Q10: If I want to stay with the old way, is that okay?

A: No, we will be introducing the new fee structure across the whole South East region.

Q11: How do other YE regions charge?

A: Other YE regions have for a number of years operated a single per company fee.

Generally relevant to Independent Schools:

Q12: My school has always passed the per student fee of £40 onto parents, how would this work with a per company charge?

A: This is very much up to the school, however we think there are potentially at least 3 options that a school may wish to consider:-

1) If the school/centre were running 2 companies, the number of achievers from the two companies might be added together and share the £1000 charge. Therefore if one company were 10 pupils and one 15 pupils, overall 25 pupils would share a £1000 charge, resulting in a charge of £40 each. This would work where schools regularly have two companies with one significantly larger than another.

2) The per student £40 fee could still be passed onto parents, and if the company is less than 13 pupils then if the school was willing, it could make up the shortfall. Where a company had more than 13 or more pupils the excess could be kept by the school in order to make up for the possibility that there might be future companies smaller than 13.

3) The £500 fee could be split amongst the number of achievers and passed onto parents. This may result in the 'per pupil' charge being more or less than £40, depending on the number of achievers in the company. This would work where parents were less sensitive to price changes.