

The Construction Youth Trust Work Experience Programme

The Construction Youth Trust Work Experience programme is a 5 day employer-led programme designed to give young people an immersive insight into the world of work.

The importance of work experience

Work experience is an incredible opportunity for young people to experience the day-to-day realities of the workplace, interact with professionals, and begin thinking about their next steps. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and UK government lockdown measures, a whole generation of students have missed out on work experience opportunities and suffered a massive gap in their career development.

“If you’re just walking by a construction site and you see all the workers laying out the bricks and stuff you’re going to think ‘construction is such a simple thing’, but actually working on it and doing it for yourself, that’s what opens your mind and makes you realise that not everything is as simple as it seems!” Student



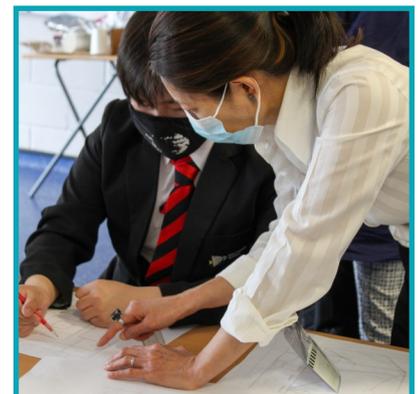
83%
 of young people agreed
 that they had learnt
 something new

The programme

On our Work Experience Programme, we bring the workplace to students. The programme is a microcosm of a week in a real professional team – young people take on specific career roles within the construction industry and create their own mini-companies, working towards a brief that is set to them by an external client.

***“This week whenever I have been in a session, I have been very impressed by the skills of the organisers and how they have totally brought out the best in our fantastic students”
 Teacher at Deptford Green***

Across the week, participants are required to undertake a variety of real world-of-work tasks specific to their own role, amalgamating their work in daily team meetings and dealing with the ups and downs of working life. Throughout the project, industry volunteers are on-hand to support with tasks and give a first-hand insight into their roles. The programme culminates with each mini-company presenting their project pitch to a panel of professionals, demonstrating how they have fulfilled the client’s needs to win the coveted contract!



79%
 of young people agreed
 the programme made
 them think about
 different types of work
 that people do

A successful pilot!

At Deptford Green School, the Trust supported 166 students as they discovered 5 different roles within the construction and built environment sector! We had over 40 professional volunteers attend over the action-packed week, both over Zoom and face-to-face, to give students a genuinely immersive experience of what it is like to collaborate professionally.



“Being able to work in a group and learn about all those different jobs and all the things that go into it has really opened my eyes to how many different roles and things you can do in something like construction” Student

“Due to the pandemic, we could not send our young people out on work experience so work experience came to us! After such a challenging year and the cancelation of most careers activities, what a brilliant way to bring all these learning experiences together over the course of a week in school and for us all to have the privilege to see all our young people grow in confidence and gain a real sense of achievement.”

Teacher, Deptford Green School

Employability

As well as promoting the benefits of teamwork, the programme also included sessions that supported the development of the kinds of soft skills that are useful in the workplace, for example communication and presentation skills.

“The most interesting thing I learnt was how to present yourself in an interview.” Student

76%
of young people agreed the programme made them think about different types of skills and qualifications people have

85%
of young people agreed they developed their professional skills and relationships



It was fantastic to see the young people grow in confidence and professionalism throughout the week as they saw their hard work pay off and their projects come together. We witnessed young people rise to the challenge and relish the tasks and responsibilities given to them. In one classroom, a teacher told us how fantastic it was to see a student engage more than they had all year! In another, a student took up the mantle of their colleagues, finding time to give additional support to ensure that all tasks were completed within the required timescale!

