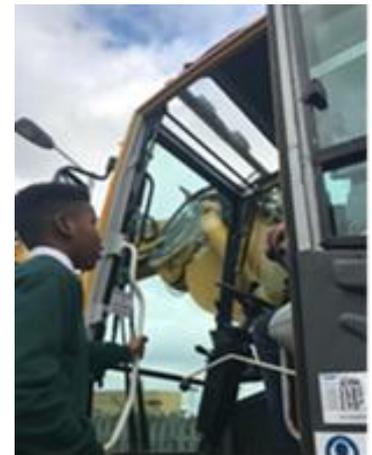


What's happening?

Best practice on TLP KO2 BBR & SRA Primary School Open Day at NXG



Overview:

Balfour Beatty Rail (BBR) and Siemens Rail Automation (SRA) working on the Thameslink project celebrated Rail Week 2017 by organizing and hosting a primary school open day at the New Cross Gate (NXG) offices on 13th October. Kender Primary School were engaged to be involved with the day as they are very local to the New Cross Gate site, and all year 6 classes participated in either the morning or the afternoon sessions. A total of 70 students visited the site during the open day, and 6 Thameslink staff were involved. A variety of activities took place, including a presentation from a BBR engineer, building a lego railway, a PPE race and a plant demonstration.

Presentation & quiz from BBR engineer: the students were lucky enough to hear from an engineer working on the Thameslink programme. She gave them an overview of what the Thameslink project was about, rail networks in the UK and beyond, what is involved in building and maintaining rail, safety on the railways and finally what sorts of jobs there are in the rail industry. It was a great presentation with an interactive quiz throughout to keep the kids entertained!

Lego trainset: the students got to build a train line using Siemens' Lego trainset. They were challenged with avoiding natural and man-made obstacles (e.g. factories, lakes, forests) and building a train line from NXG to London Bridge. They had their arithmetic and analysis skills tested as well, as they had to calculate how much they were spending and what the sustainability impact was!

PPE race: the students learnt about the different kinds of protective equipment used on site and how these different items keep us safe. Students then took part in a relay race where they had the opportunity to wear different items of clothing in order to score points for their team.

Plant demonstration: the students got to see what sort of plant is used on the Thameslink and understand a bit more about how it works.

Benefits:

- Engagement with the local school improves our relationship with the local community
- Inspires children to consider taking STEM subjects and possibly a future career in rail
- A way of giving the community local to NXG an overview of the Thameslink project

Challenges:

- Finding different and interesting activities to keep the students entertained
- Finding enough volunteers to help with the day

Meeting our objectives & targets:

This initiative is aligned with the following TLP Sustainability Strategy Objectives:

- Objective 4: To maximise and report on the social value generated by TLP through local employment & skills, local supply chains and community engagement.