

What's happening?

Best practice on TLP KO2

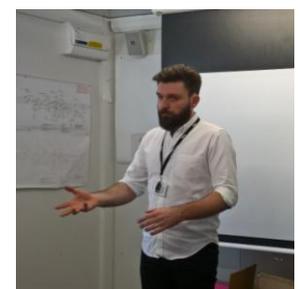
BBR & SRA Open Day at NXG with Engineering Development Trust

Overview:

Balfour Beatty Rail (BBR) and Siemens Rail Automation (SRA) working on the Thameslink project welcomed students onto their New Cross Gate site on 15th February 2018 as part of the Engineering Development Trust's 'Industrial Cadets' scheme. A total of 28 students between 12-16 years old visited the site, and 11 Thameslink staff were involved. The day included presentations and Q&As from a range of staff working on Thameslink, building a lego railway, a plant demonstration and a speed-networking session with apprentices and graduates.

Over the course of the day, the students heard from people with varied job roles which gave them an idea of the range of interesting careers available in rail and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects:

- Fatima Orr-Deen – Environment Project Partner from BBR. Fatima gave an overview of the type of track and civils work that BBR do on Thameslink.
- Alex Giles – Sustainability Specialist from SRA. Spoke about SRA's signalling upgrade work and sustainability initiatives on Thameslink.
- Alex Patton – Cyber security engineer from SRA. Spoke about why cyber security needs to be considered in infrastructure projects
- Nicola Ram – Quality Manager from BBR. Spoke about her previous experience in infrastructure and showed photos of different projects.
- Rob McAuliffe – Consents Manager from Network Rail. Spoke about his job and what are the important considerations for infrastructure projects.
- Recently qualified apprentices and graduates from BBR who participated in the speed networking to give students an overview of the apprenticeship and graduate programmes and answer any questions.



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 New Cross Gate to London Bridge. They had their arithmetic and analysis skills tested too as they had to calculate how much they were spending and what the sustainability impact was!



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

Final Industrial Cadets presentations: the students put their presentation skills to the test and groups had to produce a poster to sum up how this experience had informed them about careers in STEM.



Benefits:

- Engagement with 28 students, some of them locally-based. This improves our relationship with the local community.
- Inspires children to consider taking STEM subjects and possibly a future career in rail.
- Positive impact to the students from their experience, including developing their teamwork, presentation and leadership skills.

Challenges:

- Finding enough volunteers to help with the day.
- Range of ages involved – the students were between 12 and 16 years old which meant we had to organise activities suitable for various ages.

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.