

A3 hindhead sustainability case study - Healthy communities School engagement



The project team are committed to encouraging and inspiring young people into a career in civil engineering.

It is recognised that construction sites hold a fascination for children, as well as providing a platform from which geography, science, maths and environmental studies can be seen in action. The Community Relations team aim to work with as many local schools as possible, and in turn the schools are invited to utilise the project and its expert personnel for any educational purposes they deem appropriate.

This has proved extremely successful with the Community Relations team working with 17 different schools since the project began, giving presentations, running site visits and assisting with projects and coursework.

Examples of this include:

Woolmer Hill Technology College - Maths in Practise. Site surveyors visited the college to demonstrate how fundamental maths is to surveying. Specialist equipment was utilised and the results analysed to give a snapshot of what the job entails.

Grayshott Primary School - Presentations and assistance on projects including: Rocks and Geology, Grayshott & its Locality, and The Environment.

St Bartholomew's Primary School - 'Building' Project. The class were given a talk on the construction methods used to build the tunnel and some of the key structures and then set a 'Build a Bridge' challenge.

School engagement

Wimbledon High School for Girls – Dormouse Bridge Project. A group of engineers supported the students through the planning, design and implementation of this project, which was then exhibited at the Surrey SATRO Festival of Science and Engineering.

University of Surrey ‘Headstart Course’ – Prospective civil engineering students were invited to site for a visit and presentation by the roadworks team leader and 2 graduates.

What are the advantages for the schools?

- Delivery of the curriculum is enhanced by access to the project and expertise of those working on it:
- “Thank you so much for giving us an informative and interesting morning last week. The children learnt a great deal and it was very exciting to see it all for real!”
- Teachers feel supported in their championing of students into particular fields:
- Wimbledon High School thanked us for “recognising the talent in students” and supporting their mission to “encourage more intelligent girls to consider engineering as a career”

What are the advantages for the project and Company?

- Excellent relationships with the local schools are forged
- The company is painted in a positive light for prospective civil engineering students
- The team were able to introduce the company’s Health and Safety policies especially ‘Zero Harm’. This also provided the opportunity to explain how dangerous construction sites are and for children not to go onto them.

