

CITB Update

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD

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Careers under construction

95 Year 9 students from Kendrick School were introduced to the range of careers available in the construction industry, at a day organised by CBEBP and Sheila Thomson from Southern Construction Careers Group. Working in teams of five, the girls spent the morning planning Morrison City, an imaginary development containing residential and commercial premises, with all services. Within the teams, the students took on roles typical of the construction industry, such as site engineer, architect, and quantity surveyor. Later in the day, a building

exercise stretched problem-solving and team-working skills further.

Comments from evaluation forms illustrate the benefits of this kind of exercise: "I learnt that communication and persuasion are essential ... we developed skills of memorising, maths, team work and logical thinking... we used budgeting and maths skills ... I enjoyed acting as a manager... we saw a practical side to maths... it was fun having to discuss everything."

Central Berkshire EBP



With reports from:

Central Berkshire EBP

South East Berkshire EBP

Windsor Slough EBP

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead EBP

West Berkshire EBP

No place like Home

The Bayer Millennium Home was a popular venue for investigation of construction, design and materials.

47 teachers and nearly 700 pupils from 12 primary, three secondary and three special schools visited the home during March. The work sheets, which were designed by teachers, helped them to explore the design and construction of a range of items to be found in the modern home.

Children's comments included:

'I liked filling in the sheets because it was fun going around looking at different things to find the answer.'

'My favourite activity was when we had to smell the different

fragrances.'

'It was a science lesson made fun.'

Teachers also expressed appreciation:

'The home enabled the children to see issues we had discussed in real life.'

'Children gained an increased awareness of what is natural and what is man-made.'

West Berkshire EBP



Rapid response challenge

Neighbourhood Engineers helped four secondary schools from the Windsor-Slough area in a challenge day, hosted by GlaxoSmithKline, to design facilities for refugees after a disaster, such as a hurricane.

Nearly 60 Year 9 students from one grammar school, two secondary schools and one special needs school worked in teams of five, and constructed an emergency shelter, then built a pipe-work system supported by bamboo structures to carry water across a stretch of land.

The objective was to give students a better understanding of key aspects of engineering and project planning, while also building upon skills such as team building, analytical skills and



problem solving.

Teachers and students appreciated the practical activities, and felt that the experience was particularly valuable in developing team work and communication. It has already been decided to repeat this successful event for other schools.

Windsor
Slough
EBP



The Great Buggy Challenge

The Great Buggy Challenge develops practical design skills, in a fun and competitive atmosphere, organised by SE Berks EBP, with Shell Education Service and Neighbourhood Engineers.

Over 100 children from 18 primary schools in the Bracknell area worked in teams of six to design, make and test a wooden buggy powered by a balloon. The buggies were then raced, and the winning vehicles were those that travelled the furthest in a straight line. Some secondary pupils from Brakenhale School were on hand to act as 'buddies' to the teams, and also



helped the Neighbourhood Engineers to judge and test the buggies.

The winning school was St Michael's, Easthampstead, and the team received the Primary Challenge Shield.

The teacher evaluations drew out a number of perceived benefits of the challenge:

Children had to work individually and also co-operate with each other; they learned to use tools correctly and safely; they learned the importance of symmetrical design; trial and error helped them improve their designs.

SE Berkshire EBP

A taste of construction

2 pupils from five secondary schools spent a day at East Berkshire College, Langley, in March, for a taste of construction related courses. Aged 13-14, the students tried bricklaying, interior design, carpentry, electrical and plumbing.

The students enjoyed their day of hands-on learning, as comments from their evaluations show:

'The people were very friendly and helpful.'

'It was great fun and it should happen more often.'

'Thanks for letting us come on this construction day.'

'It is a fantastic college and I would recommend it to others.'

Enthusiasm from students and East Berkshire College means that construction taster days are likely to become an annual event.

RB Windsor & Maidenhead EBP

Green Park

Seven teachers from primary and secondary schools in two EBP areas met at one of Reading's most ambitious developments, Green Park, as part of National Construction Week Activities.

After an overview of the Green Park development in the marketing suite, talks from architects and the landscape architect outlined some of the issues facing the modern construction industry. A walking tour of the site provided insight into the challenges and environmental considerations involved in building a major development on flood plain.

Evaluations indicated that the teachers gained insight into the construction and landscaping industries, and had identified issues, particularly environmental issues, that they could follow up in the classroom.

SE Berks EBP &
Central Berkshire EBP