

Balfour Beatty



Balfour Beatty constantly strives to find new and innovative ways to engage with school pupils and spark their interest in engineering. The importance of forging strong links with partners in education cannot be underestimated, as the industry tries to tackle the skills shortage that it currently faces.

As part of the curriculum support activities being delivered by the project team, Ken Brown (Deputy Project Manager, A9/A85 Junction Improvement and Link Road to Bertha Park) delivered a presentation via Learn Live on Tuesday 29th November 2016. This is a live and interactive broadcast facility, which enables pupils to engage with presenters no matter where they might be and reduces the barriers faced by teachers when trying to facilitate this type of interaction with business.

The presentation focussed on the building of a bailey bridge. One was recently installed as part of the programme in Perth. Ken included pictures of the site to allow pupils to identify where the work was taking place, as well as drawings and a fly through video of the planned works. He then took part in a Q & A session with the pupils.

Craig Smith (Engineering Science Teacher, St John's Academy) said, "The kids were fascinated as many of them live in and around the area and had seen work going on but had no idea of the changes that were taking place."

Future engagement with the secondary schools includes facilitating mock interviews for pupils on December 14th 2016 and to offer work experience placements in March 2017.

