

Case Study: Community Engagement

‘Bridges to Schools’ – St Johns RC Academy



Perth Transport Futures Project – Phase One
A9/A85 Perth Transport Futures Project

21st September 2017

Balfour Beatty and Perth and Kinross Council brought the ICE's cable bridge kit to St Johns RC Academy in Perth to deliver a series of bridge building workshops to local school pupils.

“It was great to see pupils of various ages engaging with the project team and gaining an informative insight into Civil Engineering” **Jillian Ferguson, Project Manager, Perth and Kinross Council**

The Challenge

It is vitally important for the construction industry to engage with and inspire the next generation of emerging talent. When engaging with younger people, hands-on, kinetic experiences can stimulate and nurture inquisitive young minds, allowing them to learn new things at the same time as having fun.

The Measures

Balfour Beatty and Perth and Kinross Council, led students at local schools in Perth in a three day practical exercise to build and test scale models of a 15 metre cable-stayed bridge, provided by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) regional education team.

The popular year-round event, ‘Bridges to Schools’, aims to promote the benefits of careers in civil engineering and the positive impact the profession has on society.

Over 189 pupils across three local schools, Perth Grammar, St John’s RC Academy and Ruthvenfield Primary School, participated in the event, learning about the importance of safe working practices and collaboration as well as the engineering properties involved in building a bridge including; counter

weights, towers in compression and cables in tension.

The Results

Ken Brown, Project Director for Balfour Beatty’s Perth Transport Futures project, said: “We are dedicated to be engaging with the local community - and our future workforce! Bridges to Schools is yet another excellent example of the positive activity that we can undertake to inspire and educate the next generation. I would like to thank the dedicated teams from both Balfour Beatty and Perth and Kinross Council for facilitating this important event and would like to congratulate all students who rose to the challenge.”

Jillian Ferguson, Project Manager, Perth and Kinross Council, said: “It was great to see pupils of various ages engaging with the project team and gaining an informative insight into Civil Engineering”

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