

CASE STUDY 7

Employer led virtual work-based learning with Balfour Beattie and NESCol

Partners

North East College, Scotland, Balfour Beattie, Skills Development Scotland, schools

Focus

Civil Engineering Foundation Apprenticeship

Success factors

- School, College, Industry partnership enabling Senior Phase pupils to continue with employer placement activity during restricted access to the workplace
- Employer-delivered work-based learning utilising a bespoke online portal to help students to put their learning into context and to raise awareness of career opportunities in the construction industry
- The format for accessing learning directly with the college and the employer has been shared with secondary schools delivering Foundation Apprenticeships and has contributed to a better understanding of how blended learning activities can be delivered
- Students gain insight into possible career paths in engineering and can ask questions about what it's really like to work in the industry
- Students are getting the opportunity to interact with professionals, and it encourages them to engage and present themselves in a professional manner

 **“We are delighted to be partnering with such a forward-thinking business which has invested significant time and consideration into ensuring that our students gain exposure to the world of work and all the benefits that this brings.”**

Neil Campbell, NESCol

 **“We conduct learner reviews twice a year across the whole portfolio of school college provision. For Foundation Apprentices, learner reviews are completed once a quarter, and we are working towards ensuring the more detailed information is shared with school contacts.”**

Duncan Abernethy, Director of Business Development, NESCol

Impact

Balfour Beatty have gone over and above to ensure that students are able to have a meaningful experience in terms of remote employer engagement. The examples of real-life projects have helped contextualise much of the classroom learning and the students have been enthusiastic about the opportunity with a 100% attendance at each session.

Moving forward

In non-Covid-19 times, there would have been celebration of success events, inviting Head Teachers, parents/ carers, FA learners and employers and learning providers to a session where everyone can meet to commemorate the achievements and showcase activities undertaken.

The partnership activity between schools, NESCol and the employer has embraced an innovative approach to virtual learning, enabling Senior Phase pupils to continue with employer placement activity during restricted access to the workplace.