

CONSTRUCTION DIPLOMA STUDENTS EMBARK ON QUALITY WORK EXPERIENCE

Six young people on the Construction and Built Environment Diploma course at Hadden Park High School recently embarked on work experience placements with Nottingham City Homes. They are some of the first learners in the country to take part in sector specific work placements and complete the first year of the 14-19 Diploma.

The new Diplomas have been available since 2008, and with additional lines introduced this year, the course now available are: Creative and Media, Construction & the Built Environment, Engineering, Information Technology, Society, Health & Development, Business Administration & Finance, Hair & Beauty Studies, Hospitality, Environmental & Land-Based Studies and Manufacturing & Product Design. They combine theoretical and practical learning to equip them with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need for further education and long-term employability.

Each Diploma student spent a week working in a specialist division, alongside a manager, getting an insight into the varied call outs and tasks they undertake each day. One group of learners spent time with the Voids team, who are responsible for carrying out necessary repairs and bringing empty properties back to a standard to be let out again. Others worked with the team responsible for windows in properties, to ensure they meet with Nottingham City Homes' 'Secure, Warm Modern' programme. The final area students experienced was the responsive repairs team, who work alongside the repairs call centre to ensure that more than 130,000 repairs are completed each year.

Mark Johnson, Director of Property Services at Nottingham City Homes, said "The Diploma is a great way for young people to learn more about the construction industry. If they choose to work in construction after leaving school, or pursue a degree at university, this is an ideal foundation for them. We are pleased to support the Diploma and hope the hands-on experience pupils get on their work placement with us will help them progress in their course."

Daniel Leverton, 15, worked with the plumbing team: "The course has been really good so far. It has given me the chance to find out what plumbing and construction is like and has made me

more determined I want to do that when I finish school. Doing hands on work is much better than being in a classroom, you learn much more."

Clayton Hickling, 15, worked alongside the window fitting team and was also impressed with what he learned: "I wouldn't have had the chance to pick up that sort of experience in school. I went out with the staff and had the chance to do things for myself rather than watching which was good for getting experience.

Jordan Barber, 15, who wants to be an electrician said: "I was able to carry out electrical tests at properties, having that experience is the sort of thing which will be important when it comes to looking for jobs."

Nottingham City Homes have worked closely with Nottinghamshire Education Business Alliance (NEBA) who broker activity between secondary schools and employers. NEBA work with employers in all business sectors across Nottinghamshire to improve the relevance and quality of work experience placements for young people aged 14-16.

Sam Webster, Business Engagement Advisor at NEBA said "We are working closely with many employers to support young people who are still at school so that they can experience the real world of work and prepare them for their working lives. Nottingham City Homes are a key employer partner and their team have shown great commitment to the value of quality work experience. I know that many employers are beginning to see the value in working with young people who have a real interest in their business sector. I would encourage other businesses to get on board by offering work experience to young people and contact the business engagement team at NEBA."



Caption: Clayton Hickling fitting new windows to a property as part of his work experience placement.