



York Cares: Aspirations

Challenging pupils from diverse backgrounds to aim higher and work harder



Employee-volunteers from Arup supported by University of York student coaches came together to host Project Dare in February and March 2018 for 20 Year 10 pupils (15 years old) from two local secondary schools.

The project was made up of three half days. The first two sessions were held at the university and gave the pupils an insight into engineering. The main activity of the project was that pupils had to work in teams to tackle a real-life problem solving activity. Pupils were given a brief outlining their task which challenged them to work in teams to design a rail route between London and York connecting at least 5 cities. Pupils had to use a range of skills to respond to the brief meeting all of the criteria it outlined. Pupils then presented their ideas back to a panel of employees from Arup and York Cares before winners were chosen.

“Participating in this project has given our pupils the opportunity to develop their team building skills as they’ve worked alongside students from another school and also students from the University of York. They’ve really enjoyed the experience and gained a lot from it.”



Amanda Lumb, Vice Principle

The third session was a trip to Network Rail’s training centre where pupils went behind the scenes and had the opportunity to meet professionals from across the organisation. Pupils were able to see several different areas of the training centre including welding and signalling and learnt about the range of opportunities the organisation has to offer!

Aspirations programme

Outcomes for employee volunteers and partners

- Build the confidence of pupils and motivate them to aim higher for their future
- Positive way for employers to showcase the diversity of roles within their organisations
- Builds relationships between schools and employers
- Schools report increased engagement from often challenging pupils

If you would like to get involved in our Aspirations programme then please contact York Cares on 01904 323482 or via info@yorkcares.co.uk

Results and Achievements

- Pupils learnt about the range of roles with Arup and the different routes people may take into work.
- Pupils reported increased confidence and team working skills from the hands-on activities.
- Arup employees were able to share their professional skills and knowledge to inspire pupils for their futures.



It was great to speak to the pupils about engineering and to inspire them about the careers that are available within the sector.

Zoe Haigh, OLE Engineer, Arup



Get in touch

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Making York
a better place

