

# CASE STUDY

## cross channel engineers



**Theme:** Engineering  
**EBP:** WESTMINSTER LEARNING PARTNERSHIP  
**Partners:** OVE ARUP CONSTRUCTION  
**Students:** IFP students of North Westminster Community School and St Augustine's Church High School attending City of Westminster FE College

### Aims

- To recruit (an) employer(s) to support and 'bring alive' engineering.
- To link the vocational curriculum and lesson delivery to the world of work.
- To set up and carry out a site visit as an integral part of the IFP course.

### Procedure

A local engineering company was identified through an introduction from SATRO, a science and engineering ambassadors organisation. Ove Arup is one of the contractors working on the Cross Channel Tunnel Line, regeneration of St Pancras Station and surrounding new road schemes. A Project Manager was selected as the company volunteer presenter.

The curriculum was reviewed and a suitable world of work project drawn up; the ethnic diversity and experience constraints of students was disclosed; North Westminster Community School has the widest diversity of languages in Europe! Two lessons and a site visit were scheduled.

A lesson plan review meeting was held. As a result the volunteer brought visitors' centre brochures to the lessons, which also included a video, a CD presentation, slides and a handout as well as information about his role in the company, his career path and details on other staff he worked with. Risk assessment, health & safety and insurance matters were addressed on a pre-event visit undertaken by the three key staff and a report sent to schools. However, response was slow or did not happen and the visit had to be postponed. As the IFP is delivered at the college the schools did not readily take on ownership of the event, albeit specific to their students.

### Programme

Lessons and site visit with photos

### Outcomes

- Since the event students have been motivated to producing a much higher level of coursework.
- It was enlightening to the business personnel involved to discover the cultural diversity of students and the impact this may have on their attainment and achievement.
- Schools must meet their responsibilities for a smooth operation to take place.
- Identifying suitable businesses and presenters is a challenging task requiring introductions from outside parties. Many meetings are needed to ensure quality of the activity and to build a lasting partnership with the employer.

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