

Media Release

October 4, 2006

Building skills for future success

Photo opportunity: Event launch with Sunderland Mayor & Mayoress (October 10 & October 11; 9.30am-10.15am)

Or: Activity photographs (October 10 & October 11; best times 11am-12noon & 1pm-2pm)

TEENAGERS will be constructing the foundations for a successful future by taking part in a two-day event for National Construction Week. And to help them get started they will be given a pep talk by Sunderland Mayor Tom Foster who used to work in the industry.

The Mayor and Mayoress will launch both days of the construction event which aims to encourage young people to explore the options available in the sector. Students from across Tyne and Wear will take part in a number of activities run by a variety of businesses from the construction industry.

Activities during the day will include building exercises such as constructing a mini version of the Tyne Bridge, designing and building a working crane and creating a giant tetrahedron. As well as straightforward building work the students will have the chance to learn about costing projects, design work and health and safety issues.

Construction Week is now in its tenth year and this is the fifth year that Sunderland-based charity Education Business Connections has run this type of event. Business liaison officer Sarah Nicklin who organised it said: "This is a really worthwhile event, especially as the construction industry needs 348,000 new recruits by 2010. It is vital that young people obtain the skills and experiences necessary to help them in this sector."

Schools taking part across the two days include: Pennywell School, Farrington Community Sports College, Houghton Kepier School, Harton School, Washington School, Biddick School, Sandhill View, St Aidan's School, St Benet Biscop, Castlegreen and Washington School.

Businesses supporting the event include: CITB Construction Skills, Constructing Futures, Sunderland Housing Group, Gleeson, Wates Construction, RICS, Clugston Construction, Newcastle College, Health and Safety Executive, North East Roofing Training Group, Building Schools for the future, Renolit UK, ROK, Mott Macdonald, Carillion Civil Engineering, B Skill and Lomax.

Education Business Connections was formed eight years ago to support closer working between schools and businesses in Sunderland. It's success means that now the team delivers innovative educational programmes to children across Tyne and Wear. Programmes are funded from a variety of sources, including from the European Social Fund, but EBC's ongoing development is supported by Futurebuilders (for more details go to www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk).

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