

CONSTRUCTION CAROUSELS



Construction Carousels offer young people the opportunity to work with a wide range of businesses from the construction sector and to gain an understanding of the range of careers available, and various entry routes, in the sector.

This sector offers careers for all young people - from the less academically able through to the gifted and talented - and, despite continued misconceptions in both young and old, there are equal opportunities for both boys and girls to enter the sector and to enjoy a progressive, successful career.

Construction Carousels aim to get that message across and EBC's events have to date been supported by many of the major players in the sector as well as Construction Skills-CITB. Recent years have seen this event becoming a pivotal part of National Construction Week activities in the region.

Businesses are recruited from across the construction sector with the aim of:

- Breaking down the myths and traditional stereotypes surrounding a career in the sector.
- Providing young people with a real understanding of what various sector jobs entail and how they can secure these jobs.
- Reinforcing the scale and diversity of potential careers in the sector.

Businesses design practical activities to support pupils' learning whilst embedding both the key skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT and the 12 employability skills valued by employers. These include:

- Teamwork.
- Communication.
- Meeting deadlines.
- Task and time management.
- Listening to, and acting upon, instructions.

- Creativity.
- Innovation.
- Problem solving.

Supported by major businesses and organisations in the construction industry, EBC's Construction Carousels for secondary school pupils help to embed these skills into pupils' early work related learning and experience of enterprise through:

- Bringing together local businesses and pupils to work through a series of practical activities that reinforce the relevance of key skills in the workplace.
- Challenging pupils to work as a team to solve problems and to come up with creative solutions to various challenges.
- Offering pupils an 'informal' setting in which to talk with local construction-related businesses about career and training opportunities.
- Encouraging pupils to develop the skill of self-reflection.

The events are set up as carousels, with pupils working in teams of around 10 to experience each activity. Each event attracts up to 120 pupils and activities are tailored to match the ages of pupils. They can be delivered to pupils from Year 7 to Year 11.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Recruitment of businesses to deliver activities.
- Practical advice and guidance to companies on the development of their proposed activities.
- Recruitment of schools to take part in the event.
- Full event organisation, including arrangements for venues, transport, and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Full post-event evaluation.

'BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH A **CREATIVE APPROACH**
TO CURRICULUM NEEDS AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS'