

**Date:** 08 January 2013

**Grant Thornton**

## **Leeds pupils visit Yorkshire sports car manufacturer**



Seven pupils from Cockburn School in Beeston were given an insight into automotive manufacture when they visited the Garforth headquarters of sports car manufacturer Ginetta as part of an initiative headed by social enterprise Leeds Ahead.

The Year 9 pupils were given a tour of Ginetta's state-of-the-art 75,000 sq ft factory, where the Yorkshire marque's range of award-winning road and race cars are produced and they also had the opportunity to talk to staff about their jobs.

The visit is part of an on going mentoring project set up by Leeds Ahead which is being supported by business adviser Grant Thornton, construction company Balfour Beatty, Harrogate-based drinks company ICB and Leeds veterinary CT and MRI specialist Burgess Diagnostics. Volunteers from the companies have been working with the students to build their confidence and also with the aim of increasing their engagement with education through aspiration-raising activities as well as widening their knowledge of career options.

Lawrence Tomlinson, chairman of Ginetta Cars and the wider LNT Group said; "It was a pleasure to welcome the students to our factory as part of this exciting project by Leeds Ahead. The LNT group takes pride in supporting the careers of youngsters, and in Year 9, they have their entire future ahead of them. We hope the tour was educational and would welcome them back any time."



media relations and profile

Marcus Black of ICB, commented: "We are extremely grateful to Ginetta for hosting this visit. It's important that we open up the world of work to these young people and show them some of the exciting industries in which they can work – few of them will have been aware before today that a world-leading manufacturer of sports cars was on their doorstep! Rather than just talking about options in a classroom setting, we want these young people to be inspired by visiting different companies and experiencing various work environments first hand."

Matt Stroh, associate director at Grant Thornton in Leeds, said: "We have long been advocates of bringing together business and education – it is important that young people fulfil their potential, not only are they the future workforce, they are also our future entrepreneurs.

"We hope that more businesses will get involved with this initiative, either by mentoring pupils or by hosting workplace visits so that young people are engaged and motivated while at school and are excited by the work options waiting for them when they leave."

The visit to Ginetta is part of a year long programme which will include regular mentoring sessions and workplace visits such as the recent visit to Balfour Beatty's Yorkshire offices in Carrwood Park, Leeds. Visits to Grant Thornton and RSL Steeper are also planned.

Grant Thornton's involvement is part of its Educate to Innovate programme which aims to foster entrepreneurialism by working with primary and secondary schools in the region to encourage and develop pupils' innovation and business skills. The firm has also supported Leeds Ahead by helping with environmental team days, careers events, the scholarship programme and its 'world of work' activities in primary schools.

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**Picture shows:** (Left to Right) Alex Suggitt, Ginetta design engineer, with Cockburn School pupils Omar Fiaz and Ryan Murgatroyd (front) and Lewis Coulson; and (right of the car from the back) pupils Jordan Dodd, Connor Fletcher, Danny Parkinson, and Ryan Motherington with Matt Stroh of Grant Thornton.

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