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**Grant Thornton**

## **Leeds pupils visit Sheffield building site**



Six pupils from Cockburn School in Beeston were given an insight into construction when they visited a Balfour Beatty development site in Sheffield as part of an initiative headed by social enterprise Ahead Partnership.

The Year 9 pupils were given an overview of the development on Glossop Road in Sheffield as well as a site induction and safety guidance. The 13 and 14 year olds then went on a tour of the site and were also given information about careers in the construction industry.

The visit is part of an on going mentoring project set up by Ahead Partnership which is being supported by Balfour Beatty; business adviser Grant Thornton; Harrogate-based drinks company ICB; RSL Steeper which manufactures prosthetic, orthotic and assistive technology products; and Burgess Diagnostics which provides mobile imaging services for the veterinary sector. Volunteers from the companies have been working with the students to build their confidence and also with the aim of increasing their engagement with employment through aspiration-raising activities as well as widening their knowledge of career options.

James Henderson, design coordinator of Balfour Beatty said: “The opportunity to gain an insight into the world of work, highlighting the various possibilities available is invaluable. Some of the boys showed an



media relations and profile

interest in construction prior to tour, so we hope the tour has shown them the various opportunities available within the construction industry.”

Matt Stroh, associate director at Grant Thornton in Leeds, commented: “It’s important that pupils have an opportunity to experience the world of work first hand. There are some great careers opportunities within the construction industry and we hope that the visit will inspire the boys to investigate further; some of these boys have no role models in employment.”

The tour of the Balfour Beatty site is part of a year long programme which included regular mentoring sessions and workplace visits such as the recent visit to the Garforth headquarters of sports car manufacturer Ginetta and to Grant Thornton's offices in Leeds.

Grant Thornton’s involvement is part of its Educate to Innovate programme which aims to foster entrepreneurialism by working with primary and secondary schools as well as colleges 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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**Shot 1 shows (L to R):** Pupils of Cockburn School with Matt Stroh of Grant Thornton (far left); James Henderson of Balfour Beatty (second left); and site foreman Keith Walker (fourth left)

#### **Notes to editors**

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