



Case Study



Buckingham Group Ambassadors at Swansea Arena

Introduction to the Project

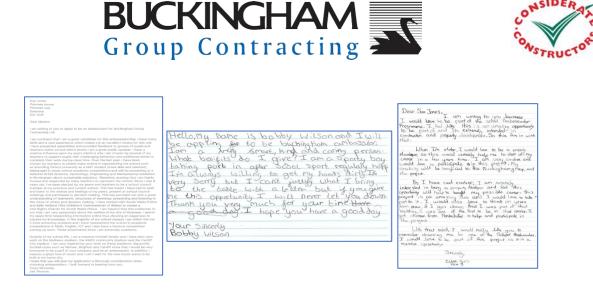
We, at Buckingham, believe that it is important to encourage young people into the industry at a young age, giving them the opportunity to see our projects from start to finish. Our Swansea Central Phase 1 site has invited a local comprehensive school to be part of the largest project in Swansea. Individuals attending this school live in the city and it is part of their local geography and history. They are also our Business Class School working alongside Careers Wales.

Our CSR Manager, Sue Jones, presented the Ambassador programme to years 8 and 9 during assembly, explaining what is involved in becoming an ambassador with Buckingham Group and a brief overview of the project they could be involved in. Over the life of the project, Ambassadors will attend site every half term and will be reporting back to the school during assembly on progress, changes, machinery, views etc. When on site, they will have the opportunity to take photos of the developments, speak to a variety of staff and sub-contractors and ask questions to understand what is happening on site.

Application and Selection

To become a Buckingham Group Ambassador, pupils applied via written/typed letters to our CSR Manager. Sue and Rachel, our Future Skills Manager, selected 14 Ambassadors from both year groups. For those that applied and were not successful, we arranged a visit to CWIC (Construction Wales Innovation Centre) simulator digger. We also felt it was important to give opportunities to those children who may not be encouraged to do extra-curricular activities, this was obvious in some of the letters.





Ambassadors visits

We purchased appropriate PPE or all Ambassadors and explained that if at any time they would like to leave the programme then it would be offered to one of the other applicants to maintain 14 throughout.

Visit 1 – Our site is split into two sections – North and South. The South is the new 3,500 seated arena with walkways, multi storey car park and digital square. The North is another multi storey car

park with a bock of 40 flats and a bridge over to the South side. We received an induction to both sites to maintain health and safety and a risk assessment was carried out before the day. Once the induction was completed, we issued PPE and had an overview of what would be seen on site that day on both sites. We were escorted around site with an engineer, site foreman and site manager and discussed work in progress.



Visit 2 – Our site has progressed and most of the car park on the South and a large proportion of the North have been fenced and Hoarding is now starting to be built to protect the site. The bridge has









been closed in preparation for it to be demolished, buildings due to be demolished were pointed out so that photographs could be taken to provide before and after scenes for their report. Photographs below show the bridge and one of the buildings that will be demolished.



Structures to be demolished



Our 3rd visit unfortunately was due towards mid-March when schools had already cancelled extracurricular activities. We will continue with this when we are able.

Estyn inspectors visiting Pentrehafod were impressed by the programme and spoke to the ambassadors about their findings and their career prospects. They reported that they have enjoyed the programme to date and some are now looking at careers in the construction industry.



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