

## Press Release

### Skanska helps students in Kent build a career in construction

Hundreds of students based in Kent discovered the exciting and varied career opportunities the construction industry has to offer when they visited Skanska's stand at the Kent Choices 4U Live event in Maidstone last week.

As one of the world's leading construction firms, Skanska has operations in building, civil engineering, utilities, infrastructure services, piling, mechanical and engineering services and facilities management. Local students and jobseekers found there are many ways to kick start their career through apprenticeships, graduate opportunities and day releases programmes to name but a few.

Skanska's Dave Grimshaw said: "With an organisation like Skanska there are so many career opportunities and we wanted to open young people's eyes to the possibilities. Whether you are interested in leading people, project delivery or the environment there really is something for everyone.

"We went to the event to inspire the next generation, but in the end we were the ones who were inspired. It was really encouraging to see how enthusiastic the young people were when they were able to speak with some of our recent recruits, including new trainees, a quantity surveyor and a graduate environmental adviser. They realised that it didn't matter what background they came from they could succeed."

Lewis Darsey, Trainee Quantity Surveyor who joined Skanska in 2012 was pleased to be able to share his positive experience: "I have always wanted to become a quantity surveyor and as soon as I joined Skanska I knew this was where I wanted to start my career. My colleagues are friendly and very helpful, they encourage me to always ask questions and their answers provide me with the best knowledge I could hope for. I have already gained lots of experience and knowledge working UK on the high-profile Crossrail project at Paddington."

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As well as having the opportunity to speak with the team, the youngsters were encouraged to enter a number of competitions. Dave Grimshaw said: "We even ran a competition to see who could build the tallest tower from wooden blocks. Congratulations to the winners, two Year 9

pupils from Knole Academy, Sevenoaks and two year 12 pupils from Hartsdown Academy, Margate.”

Skanska considers the environmental consequences of everything it does and at the event the team encouraged the youngsters to post their sustainability promises on Skanska’s sustainability tree. The best pledge, as chosen by the Skanska team, was from a Year 9 Knole Academy student who promised to help endangered species to breed and become more numerous. Other activities included building a wheelbarrow and a career’s ladder for the students to post their career aspirations.

More than 100 exhibitors attended the two day event, with special guests including music legend Jools Holland. The event was opened by Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De Lisle.

### Notes for the editor

- Skanska is one of the world’s leading project development and construction groups. The UK operation is one of the country’s top 10 contractors with 4,000 employees in the UK.
- Skanska is famous for building iconic structures like 30 St Mary’s Axe (the Gherkin), Heron Tower, and the QEII Bridge. A recent project highlight is the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the UK’s biggest hospital project, the £1 billion redevelopment of St Bartholomew’s and The Royal London hospitals.
- In Kent, Skanska employs over 200 local suppliers and subcontractors and in 2012 spent over £23 million in the local economy. It is committed to supporting local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and providing jobs as it prepares for a number of opportunities in the county.
- Skanska recently held two ‘meet the buyer’ events supported by the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce and the Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce, engaging with more than 150 SMEs <http://www.skanska.co.uk/News--Press/Display-news/>
- Current and previous Kent projects include the M25 widening and maintenance, The Dartford Crossing, A2 improvements at Pepper Hill, and the Ashford High Speed Tunnel.
- Skanska carries out many extensive service-based contracts across the country

including: upgrading London's aging gas infrastructure, a wealth of facilities maintenance contracts, long-term street lighting projects, and landscaping for the London 2012 Olympic Park in Stratford. By combining their skills and experience in construction, facilities and infrastructure development, Skanska has become a UK leader in delivering projects in healthcare, education, defence, transportation and municipal services, delivered through both private and public investment.