

News

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Muse and GMI support Stockport school initiative

Muse Developments, together with main contractor, GMI Construction Group, recently welcomed a group of year eight students from The Kingsway School in Stockport to the award-winning £145M Stockport Exchange business district development currently under construction.

The visit was part of a project for students who have shown an interest in a career in construction, for them to observe first-hand how a construction site operates and raise awareness of the development.

The initiative was also part of a project where students were invited to submit ideas for the development of an indicative construction project with a budget of £50 million. The students were invited to present their thoughts around a development of their choice to also enable them to think about construction as a career choice and the varying roles and challenges on a day to day basis.

Talking about the visit and project, one pupil said: "There's a lot more to any project than you would initially think and there is more to the construction industry than meets the eye. We were all quite surprised at how small the management team was for such a large project and learned that building isn't just about the labour but it's about the management of the project as well. The building trade is not like the stereotypes and I didn't realise there were so many jobs in the construction industry."

Another went on to describe what the most valuable part of the experience for them was personally: "Actually getting the chance to see the site and watch all the different jobs in action working together; seeing the way all the different roles worked as a team to make something happen made me realise that construction can be a good career for women and they can have equal importance"

Also commenting Graham Ratcliffe of Northern Regeneration who co-ordinated the visit and learning initiative said: "It is well documented that the industry is facing a chronic skills gap, therefore, we are working closely with GMI, to help raise the profile of the construction Industry. We aim to inspire future talent to think of construction as a career choice and consider the many roles and progression routes available"

Marc Banks, divisional director at GMI said: "GMI is absolutely committed to developing and ensuring a stable, well-qualified workforce for the future and the next generation of construction professionals.

"To do this we want to inspire and raise student aspirations and encourage students to consider a career in construction and this initiative together with Muse, Stockport Council and The Construction Skills Village was extremely beneficial, and we hope that the students took some positive thoughts away with them.

"We look forward to supporting further initiatives going forward and continuing to focus on developing partnerships with schools, colleges and universities to encourage education providers to engage with construction"

Andy Barton, project manager at Muse Developments, also said: "This event was a great opportunity to bring local students to the scheme to hear their views on what a building could look

like on a set budget, and their thoughts on the process to bring it together.

"At Muse, we're always looking for ways to both reach and engage people of all ages and demographics to highlight our wide and varied sector, the career opportunities within it, along with the power of place. We look forward to holding more of these worthwhile events as the scheme progresses."

GMI is onsite building 2 Stockport Exchange - a new 60,000 sq. ft six storey grade A office building situated immediately alongside the popular 1 Stockport Exchange which was fully let just six months after completion. Works commenced in October 2018 with the development expected to be complete by Spring 2020.

Stockport Exchange will ultimately deliver up to 375,000 sq. ft of office space and 28,000 sq. ft of commercial floor space. For further information about the development visit www.stockportexchange.co.uk