



NEW COURSE TO SUPPORT AND INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO CHOOSE CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION

A group of teenagers from the Gosport area are embarking on a new construction skills course funded by developer Berkeley Homes that will provide practical experience of working in construction. The group of Year 10 students from Bay House School are studying at the school's Enterprise Academy, which gives extra support and vocational experience to pupils that flourish in non-curriculum activities. By funding this new innovative course, Berkeley Homes hopes not only to provide a valuable opportunity to the students taking part, but also to inspire more young people to consider a career in construction related industries. This project mixes gaining a valuable qualification at college, with real-life experiences on a construction site, and valuable knowledge from some of their employees. This scheme offers experiences that relates to their education, provides new practical skills, and helps the students become work-ready.

Initially twelve students will take part in the 30-week course, which starts this month and will run through the school year, resulting in a BTEC Level 1 Extended Certificate in Construction. This will involve attending Highbury College in Portsmouth once a week to undertake modules in topics such as carpentry, plastering and bricklaying, as well as health and safety. They will also gain hands-on experience of working at Berkeley's nearby Royal



Clarence Marina development in Gosport. Regular visits will give students a chance to set foot on a live construction site, watch The Bridge House develop, and meet the Project Team.

Chris Gilbert, Managing Director of Berkeley Homes (Southern) comments: *"We are really pleased to welcome the students to this unique programme that offers a wide range of practical and employability skills that we hope they will find positively engaging. The construction industry is crying out for more young people to take an interest in jobs in this sector, so we want to give them a taster of some vocational skills that could lead to stable*

employment. For students that find traditional academia challenging, school can be a disillusioning place so it is great to be able to provide a different kind of opportunity to those young people.”

Ian Potter, Head Teacher at Bay House School comments: *“Taking part in this scheme is a unique opportunity that will allow this group of young people to tackle new challenges and gain confidence. It also gives them a recognized qualification in construction, putting them in a good position to take on an apprenticeship or progress directly to a trade-specific course at college if they are interested. This a great example of the way that businesses and employers in the local area can offer invaluable real world experience to young people who need some extra support and direction.”*

Bay House School’s Enterprise Academy, based on Military Road, is a facility designed for young people that need extra support and who can find it more challenging to work in a classroom environment. As well as doing core GCSEs in English, mathematics, science and ICT, they work towards accredited qualifications in vocational and business skills. This course is delivered in partnership with Highbury College in Portsmouth, which is experienced in providing pre-16 courses and has excellent construction course facilities.



Berkeley is well established as a developer working in the Gosport area, having created the thriving neighborhood of Royal Clarence Marine over the past decade with its new homes, marina, shops and restaurants. Berkeley was also the developer behind Gunwharf Quays. The Berkeley Group employs 26,000 nationwide and partners on a range of programmes that support people into work or education. It constantly seeks new ways to work with schools, colleges and universities to inspire and encourage the next generation to join the UK house-building industry.

To find out more about Berkeley Group, please click [here](#) to visit their website.