

Northern Trains Ltd, School Engagement

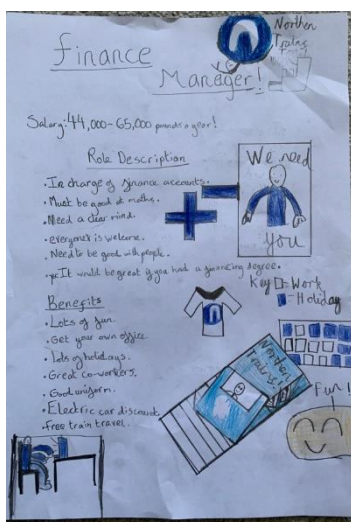
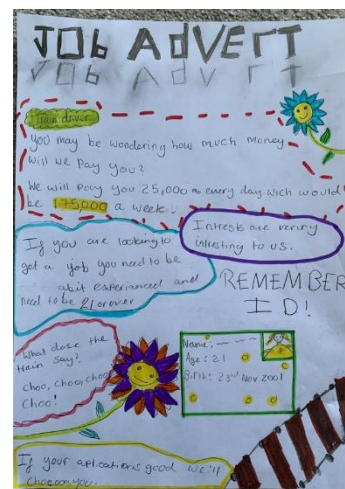
Here at Northern, we understand that engaging with schools for career related learning is a powerful method of broadening horizons, raising aspirations and showing young people the vast range of possibilities open to them. A survey in 2017 found that by giving children a chance to meet people from the work world and hearing their life journey, can help them understand the relevance of the subjects they are studying. This can make a significant impact on motivation and attainment.

[Starting early – the importance of career-related learning in primary school - Education and Employers](#)

NTL colleagues across the business can often be seen in a variety of education settings, so when a primary school in one of the most deprived parts of Bradford reached out to enquire if we would like to visit them, we jumped at the chance! A group of Northern colleagues from the engineering and people training team put together an engaging and interactive presentation for students in year 5 and 6, encouraging the students to think about and discuss what sort of opportunities the rail industry might offer them, as well as a Q & A session. The children then took turns in groups to look around a 'career carousel' with a range of stalls, all containing different equipment that we see used in rail every day, such as PPE, parts of train engines, as well as the PA system conductors use. The young people loved having the chance to get hands on and see a snapshot of just a few of the different career paths the industry offers.

“Half of the children had never travelled on a train before and we managed to get them thinking about working on our trains, highlighting that our depot is only 1 mile away from their school and there are lots of opportunities for them to work in our engineering depots in a variety of roles. It was particularly inspiring to see young girls kitted out in their high vis and glasses saying they want to be engineers in the future!” – Rachael Harrison (Northern Trains, HR Shared Services Delivery Manager).

In the afternoon the team dedicated time with just the year 6 students where they were asked to come up with some adverts for roles at Northern. They then had the opportunity to have a go at creating their own CV, as well as come up with interview questions and answers. One of those in attendance at the event described the children's answers to the interview questions as ***“Better than a lot of adult answers I have heard”!***



The career related learning day was a resounding success and the feedback from staff and pupils was fantastic. In particular, they were impressed by the passion and enthusiasm of Northern colleagues for their roles and the industry in general.

Northern's network covers many of the most deprived areas in the UK. We are committed to doing everything we can to support social mobility and it's never too early to start showing young learners the opportunities they can find in rail – not just for a job, but a career. We are excited to play a part in helping young people shape their futures and supporting the growth of the communities we work in.