

Press release: Highways England event to inspire the next generation of transport professionals

Around 24 Year 6 pupils, aged 10 and 11, from Bristol primary school St Werburgh's joined traffic officers, engineers and managers for a comprehensive tour of the ROC on Tuesday, 11 July, as well as taking part in business skills workshops and hearing about career options with Highways England.

Highways England technical leader and event organiser Garry Packer, said:

I'm very focused on raising children's aspirations and confidence so that they will see their potential, and this open day was an ideal way of doing that while promoting Highways England as a great place to work.

The pupils were really enthusiastic, asking thought-provoking and interesting questions and getting stuck into the workshops, which included sessions on communication, visioning the future and team work.

I really believe that by engaging children from a young age, the next generations will be more interested in a whole range of transport related careers and that can't be a bad thing when over 25 per cent of school leavers need to take up science or engineering to meet the demand in the South West region alone.

Traffic Officer Dom Hudd shows pupils around a Highways England patrol vehicle

Highways England has been working with St Werburgh's Primary School for a number of years, taking part in annual careers events, which also involved Year 6 pupils from Cabot Primary School, Glenfrome Primary School and St Barnabas Church of England Primary.

Helen Faulkner, deputy headteacher at St Werburgh's, said:

The children really enjoyed the visit and found it very inspiring. As well as giving them ideas about what they might like to do in their future careers it has helped them understand the type of skills employers are looking for.

Traffic Officer Dom Hudd and St Werburgh's pupils at Highways England's Regional Control Centre at Avonmouth

Highways England has also been working with the charity Envision and Bradley Stoke Community School on a mentoring scheme designed to build confidence and business skills. This year a group of young people mentored by Highways England made it in to the final of Envision's Community Apprentice competition.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.