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# National Grid gets youngsters fired up for the world of work

National Grid Gas Distribution opens its doors for Work Inspiration Week

10 Feb 2017

- **Teenagers from local special schools learn about working in the energy industry**
- **North Warwickshire and Bedworth MP Craig Tracey meets the youngsters getting their first taste of the world of work**

A local company's efforts to get young people fired up about the world of work have won the seal of approval today (Friday 10 February) from North Warwickshire and Bedworth MP Craig Tracey.

National Grid Gas Distribution threw open its doors to 21 students from special schools in Coventry, Nuneaton, Coleshill, and Hinckley for Work Inspiration Week. A five-day, action-packed itinerary took the youngsters across the West Midlands to an operational gas depot, an electricity substation and an environment centre.

The week was topped off with a day of presentations and a VIP visit from Mr Tracey. He joined the teenagers at National Grid's Coventry offices to hear about their first taste of the world of work and to present them with certificates.

Mr Tracey said: "This is a wonderful initiative from National Grid Gas Distribution to inspire local young people with learning difficulties about work. I'm delighted to support Work Inspiration Week as someone who has previously urged local employers to be 'Disability Confident' and hosted jobs fairs which have catered for those with extra needs. Meeting these young people and seeing how they are benefiting from this week was an absolute privilege."

Chris Train, Chief Executive of National Grid Gas Distribution, said: "We are passionate about opening up training and employment opportunities to young people with learning needs, focusing on their talents and abilities. We hope that this week has left these students enthused about the world of work.

"We were delighted that Craig Tracey could join us, to meet these young people and hear about their experiences. We hope that we may meet some of these students again in the future, on our EmployAbility supported internship scheme."

Those young people taking part in Work Inspiration Week were from Exhall Grange School in Coventry, Oak Wood School in Nuneaton, Woodlands in Coleshill, and Dorothy Goodman in Hinckley.

Exhall Grange School student Megan said: "We learnt how complex gas is. It's not just about turning the gas on at home – it goes on such a journey to get there."

Their week with National Grid Gas Distribution also inspired the students to find out more about National Grid's EmployAbility programme. Now in its third year, EmployAbility is specially designed to help students with learning needs and disabilities to find employment.

It offers year-long internships, where the teenagers can experience working across a number of areas, from data collection and communications to catering and reception. The scheme gives youngsters valuable work experience, making them more attractive to future employers. Many previous interns have gone on to land permanent jobs with National Grid and its contractors.

Department for Education statistics show that students with learning disabilities have only a seven-per-cent likelihood of finding paid employment. The cost to the community of supporting someone who doesn't find work through their life is £1 million per person.

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Notes for editors

#### Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

#### National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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