Community Benefits at Bodnant Community School

Read Construction
www.readconstruction.co.uk
Read Construction were appointed in February 2015 as the Main Contractor on the Bodnant Community School Alteration and Extension project. The project was to create additional learning space for the School, as well as internal and external alterations to the existing facility.

Read are committed to investing in the local community to provide added value to project deliveries and Client’s investments through a Community Benefit programme. The plan for Bodnant includes activities such as providing talks for School children about the importance of safety on and around a construction site, providing local employment opportunities and supporting regeneration and community engagement in the local area.

Why do we offer this?

Read Construction believe it is important to benefit both the Client by delivering a quality project, but also the local community and areas surrounding the project. This enables the local community to actively engage with the project throughout the building work and be a part of the process.

Read’s Community Benefits Plan addresses ‘Sustainable Procurement’ Environmentally, Socially and Economically. Read will deliver value for money on in terms of generating benefits to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.

How do we do it?

Some examples of the types of Community Benefit activities that Read carry out:

- Talks to local School children about Health & Safety from Ivor Goodsite
- Community Social Media pages to update the community on progress and notices
- Project specific Community Benefit plans
- Work experience opportunities in a number of trades
- Construction site tours
- Local employment opportunities
Jonathan recently joined Read Construction as a Technical Trainee after finishing Secondary School. He is based both on site and at the Read Head Office.

On site, Jonathan assists the Site Manager with the day to day running of the site. Jonathan is also responsible for measuring bricks, taking stock of the materials used and ensuring there is enough material left to finish the job. Jonathan also works with the Estimating team where he sends enquiries for future orders.

By giving him the opportunity to work both on site and in the Head Office, Jonathan is able to gain practical and administrative skills for the future.

Read have engaged with the pupils of Bodnant Community School throughout the alterations and extensions project. At the beginning of the project, Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 pupils were visited by Ivor Goodsite, the Considerate Constructors Health and Safety Mascot who delivered an important safety message.

Ivor was joined by Richard Smart, Site Manager, who delivered a presentation about the hazards of building sites and the procedures in place to keep everyone safe.

Children were given the opportunity to talk to the site team and ask questions about the build and what it is like to work on a building site.

Helen Vernon, Head Teacher, commented, “The children listened well and asked many questions regarding the build. This was a worthwhile talk to help the children understand the importance of safety when a building site is so close by.”

The visit from Ivor highlighted the dangers of a construction site to the children and engaged them with the progress of build.
Read were particularly keen to raise awareness to local businesses of the opportunities that Read was looking to sub-contract on the project. The event attracted a variety of local businesses, including flooring contractors, surfacing, electrical supplies and laborers.

Local companies were given the opportunity to meet with the Site Manager, QS and SHE manager on the live site of the project to discuss the opportunities available on the Bodnant project and on other projects in the North Wales area.

Later in the project, a time capsule (provided by Read) will be buried on the site after the school pupils have filled it with items that tell the history of the school, local area and life in 2015. The capsule will remain buried for the operational life of the building, whereupon its exhumation will give the pupils of tomorrow a taste of life today.

Gareth Rowlands, Quantity Surveyor commented, “The event went very well and it was good to see local trades coming to speak to us about the project. The event provided a great opportunity to connect with local businesses” From the event, products to the value of £90,000 were sent for quotations from some of the attendees, with one attendee securing the resin flooring package and 100% of attendees are now on Read’s tender list for consideration on future projects.

Iolo Rhys, SHE Manager commented, “Read have actively encouraged local supply chain involvement to schemes for many years, and we’re as committed as ever to engaging local companies at Bodnant. The Meet the Buyer event was an excellent opportunity for local companies to meet our team, discuss prospects and start or renew partnerships”