

Case study: Destination Rail Workshops Chesterfield 2019-20

Client: Chesterfield Borough Council

The Challenge

Investment in the rail industry attracts an excellent opportunity for a new generation of young people in Chesterfield to showcase their skills at all levels. Innovation and engineering excellence are part of Chesterfield's heritage and in the DNA of its young people and students.

Our ability to inspire future generations of rail engineers is central to our plans to develop a pipeline of talent who can take advantage of these future opportunities. A rail-specific careers programme for local schools was required as part of the HS2 and You initiative.

Our Solution

Chesterfield Borough Council in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council commissioned Learn by Design to design and deliver workshops for primary and secondary schools.

Our workshops were designed to make the young people aware that the rail sector is already a huge employer in the East Midlands, and that there will be more jobs in the sector in future. The workshops aimed to excite learners and prepare them to make the most of these opportunities. They aimed to appeal to a range of learners by showcasing careers in rail, like engineering, customer service, and architecture.

For primary schools

We developed 'Race to Construct', a career-related learning workshop day, helping young people explore careers and develop transferable skills that are essential to the rail industry.

These workshops challenge teams of learners to build their own high-speed rail line using K'Nex. Teams aim to score record numbers of points, by building the longest line possible, connecting multiple cities, and tackling a series of problem-solving challenges along the way.

Careers-related learning is applied throughout the workshop, with learners considering engineering in their track building and bridge designs, customer service, at their stations, ecological concerns along their route, and in the recycling of materials.

These engaging, hands-on workshops catered for a whole year group in a day, with half of the learners taking part during a morning, and half in the afternoon.

Not only did they provide fascinating insights into how the skills and knowledge learned in school can be used in exciting future careers, they also broke down stereotypes around workers in rail industry and wider STEAM jobs.

For secondary schools

For secondary learners we adapted our tried-and-tested iRail workshops developed in hand with the Rail Forum Midlands. Learners:

- Used interactive quiz software to explore careers in the rail industry and the routes into them.
- Completed a design challenge about innovation in the rail industry.
- Took on a VEX robotics-based team challenge, developing key transferable skills required to succeed in the rail industry and beyond.



Each workshop engaged up to 180 young people in a carousel of 3 x 1 hour workshops.

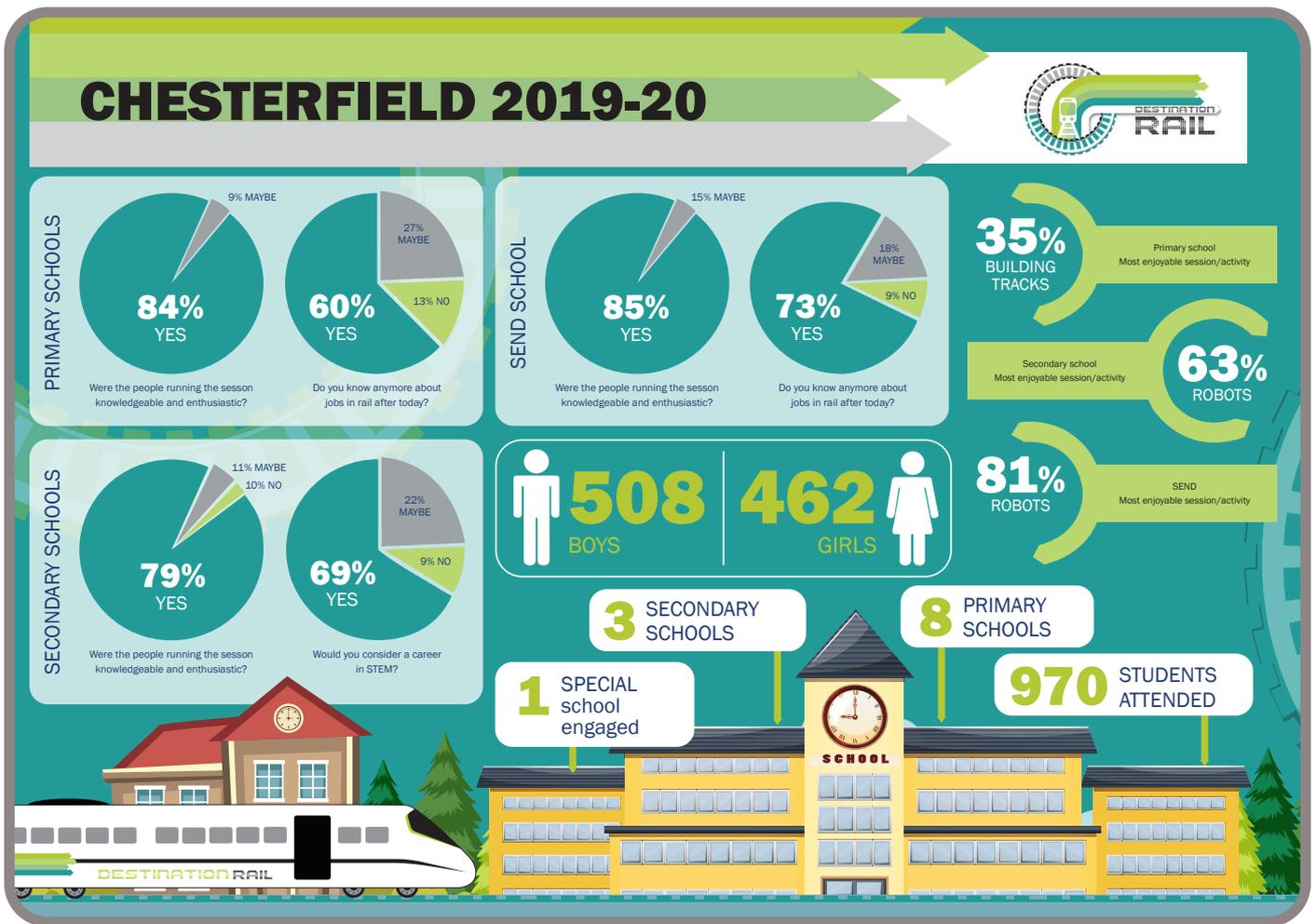
“A fantastic workshop delivered by fantastic instructors. The workshop was pitched correctly and the instructors were very enthusiastic. The children LOVED the activity so much so that they were willing playtime to end. The activity encouraged fantastic teamwork, discussion and communication. The activity gave opportunities for class differentiation and so all children achieved. Looking forward to hopefully doing something similar soon.”

Mary Swanwick Primary

Feedback

This was absolutely brilliant – they were engaged throughout and the emphasis on challenge and teamwork was amazing. Thank you!

Hasland Junior School



How does Destination Rail hit the Gatsby Benchmarks?

Destination Rail adhered to the following Gatsby Benchmarks for good careers guidance:

2. Learning from career and labour market information

During the 'Introduction to Rail' quiz, students learned rail skills gap and the reasons behind promoting rail careers.