



**Welcome** to our latest newsletter which covers some of our activities during an unprecedented time for all of us.

Despite the pandemic and the lockdown from March 2020, the **West London Schools Advisers: Mary Cunningham, Susan Mehmi and Christine Simon** have continued their engagement with local schools, providing help and support to teachers, students and parents and connecting schools with employers.



Uxbridge High School students at Twitter

“On Tuesday (15<sup>th</sup> October 2019) 25 year 10 students had a brilliant time at **Twitter HQ** in Central London.

A mixture of IT and Computer Science students, worked with programmers at Twitter to create web pages and a weather App.

They coded in HTML, CSS and JavaScript, helped by the fantastic Twitter staff, who also shared their own experiences which has inspired our students to consider working for a company like Twitter.

Thanks to JCP West London for organising the trip.”

**Report from A Le-Gall, Sixth Form Guidance Leader & Careers Lead, Uxbridge High School.**

## Benefits of a Traineeship with Skills Training - A Good News Story

Over the past 3 years, **Christine** has been working closely with **Southall College** which has around 100 Year 11 students who could not get placed into mainstream education but still need to do GCSEs and can study Functional skills in Maths and English as well as English Entry level 1 or 2.

Just two years ago **Christine** assisted **Chakaniya**, who was doing English Entry Level 2 but really needed to do English GCSE in order to get into university to study Medicine. Christine liaised with **Skills Training** and invited **Parimal Patel (Community Engagement Adviser)** to deliver an information session on **Traineeships** which was followed up by an open evening for parents and students to attend **The Skills Centre in Ealing**.

**Chakaniya** joined the programme and within a year completed Functional skills in Maths and English level 1 and 2 as well as Customer service L1 and Health and Social Care. Following this she completed BTEC Level 2 and 3 and applied to university for this year and started in September.

**Chakaniya** has shown that if you are willing to put in the hard work it will pay off and she is a great success story. She has also returned to **Southall College** to share her story with other students to inspire them. Christine continues to work closely with **Skills training** and hopefully will have more success stories. (<https://www.skillstraininguk.com/---amazing-journey---gets-chakaniya-ready-for-psychology-career>)



## Tideway - working in partnership with the DWP Support for Schools Programme to promote construction careers in secondary schools in West London.

As part of **Tideway's** commitment to the communities within which they are working to construct the new sewer, they support local schools to help them deliver their careers agenda by promoting careers in construction and engineering.

“Working with **Mary Cunningham** from the **DWP Support for Schools Programme**, over the last three years we have established an incredibly positive relationship, promoting construction and engineering sector as a career choice. Schools we have successfully engaged with include the **Hurlingham Academy, Ernest Bevin College, Southfields Academy, St John Bosco College, Fulham Enterprise Studio, Fulham Boys School and Phoenix Academy**. More recently, **Mary Cunningham**, helped secure the **Breaking Barriers Programme**, an educational programme delivered by London Youth Rowing and sponsored by Tideway, for Ernest Bevin College.”



### Lilia Frunzo from Thames Tideway reports on “Why is it important to work collaboratively?”

“**Construction and engineering** are not very popular subjects amongst students. The sector is often seen as being very male dominated, with low paid jobs and only chosen as a last resort by students who are not very academically inclined. Similarly, teachers and educators can sometimes be unaware of the vast array of careers available within the sector and consequently fail to sell these to their students.

This is why it is essential for key companies such as the **BMB** joint venture partners to collaborate with agencies such as the **DWP Support for Schools Programme** and the schools themselves to work together in order to give students a more accurate vision of the high tech, high skilled industry that Construction is today. Having someone as passionate and as well-known by the schools as Mary by our side has made our role of promoting the construction sector incredibly easy.

So far, the joint venture has supported work experience (virtual and on site), mock interview days, CV workshops, information advice and guidance sessions on the apprenticeship scheme, speed networking and site visits through our incredible volunteers who are always full of enthusiasm for their work with the students.

Despite the difficulties posed by the pandemic, **BMB** and **Tideway** are looking forward to continuing to support the work of the **DWP Support for Schools Programme** and the needs of the schools during this difficult time.” (Report by Lilia Frunzo, Skills and Employment Manager from Tideway)

## HOW JOBCENTRE ADVISERS CAN SUPPORT YOUR CAREERS STRATEGY

S4S DWP Gatsby Benchmarks	Presentations	1 to 1 information & advice sessions	Interactive Workshops	Facilitation of Work placement & Industry Speaker	Careers /Higher Education Fairs	Speed networking events, Mock Interview days
1. A stable careers programme						
2. Learning from career and labour market information	✔		✔			
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil		✔				
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers			✔		✔	
5. Encounters and employers and employees						✔
6. Experiences of workplace				✔		
7. Encounters with further and higher education					✔	
8. Personal guidance	WE ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO GIVE PERSONAL GUIDANCE					

### Below is a summary of how our team can help

**Benchmark 2:** We provide accurate information about future study options, the labour market and how their choices can be impacted by said market.

**Benchmark 3:** We actively seek to inspire students to think about how their skills and experience can be used along any pathway they ultimately decide to take by providing information and advice (*not guidance*).

**Benchmark 4:** Our activities help to break down industry myths and create awareness about STEM subjects and the many different job roles within sectors.

**Benchmark 5:** These events expose young people to professionals from different sectors and help students to develop soft skills they may not get the opportunity to learn in school.

**Benchmark 6:** We tap into our employer network to link them with schools in order provide students with an opportunity to have first-hand experience of the workplace and further aid their exploration of different opportunities.

**Benchmark 7:** Schools arrange this directly for their students but we have also promoted events to our vast schools' network to support their students.

Due to the current pandemic we are delivering sessions **virtually** via **Microsoft Teams**.

Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

### Our MISSION STATEMENT:

“To give young people the knowledge and skills to enable them to make informed career choices and be equipped for their future.”

“We are a free service aimed at supporting schools to deliver the careers agenda and help to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks.”

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We support mainstream secondary, SEND and PRU schools as well as 6th forms in Further Education colleges. We provide the following sessions:

- ◆ Information about routes into Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- ◆ Employability skills
- ◆ CV writing, interview skills and job search skills
- ◆ Mock interviews
- ◆ Information on the local labour market and employers

