

Work Experience in the Construction Industry – IQ Glass & HS2

In November our Y12 Construction students took part in two days' work experience. The first day was at **IQ Glass**, UK leaders in architectural glass and glazing solutions, structural glass and glass extensions.

The students were introduced to the various departments including Estimating, Sales, Design, Procurement, Contracts and had a talk with Gary Davis, CEO.

Review by Haleem Nazakat

We had a terrific day at IQ Glass, learning and putting ourselves in the position of employers to observe how their daily lives are conducted. We already had a great first impression on our arrival, looking at the cars in the staff car park which included a Porsche, BMW and Range Rovers!

The glass meeting room on the second floor really stood out to me during our initial tour of the showroom. Secondly, we began by introducing ourselves to the Estimation team, observing their work and seeing how they carry out their tasks. They work on a variety of projects while attempting to finish the one they have taken on the quickest. Then we went to the sales team to observe how they work and how they go about generating sales and keeping additional customers.

We then met with Media and Drawings, who displayed all of their drawings to us. This was extremely intriguing because they had 5-7 days to do everything accurately. After meeting the media and drawing team, we went to visit the PM. He gave us an overview of his position and what he does. He also showed us his entire team and explained who is responsible for what. Everyone was playing a part and collaborating to get results for the company. We saw the project manager after lunch. He has completed thousands of tasks abroad in places like Italy, the Caribbean, and New York. He demonstrated his planning process for us, and you could see his tenacity and desire to finish the job—if he even had the slightest inkling that something was not going well, he would board the next flight and go fix it. For example, during his last project he flew out to Italy to resolve a supplier issue.

Finally, we met the CEO, who was incredibly courteous and enjoyed having us. He even stated he would think about hiring us provided we maintained our focus and received good marks. We had a nice day overall and learnt a lot of knowledge that will help us in our building careers!



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The students' second day of work experience was at **Align HS2**.



In July 2017 the Align joint venture was awarded the C1 package of the UK High Speed 2 line (HS2). Students took a shuttle bus tour of the whole of South Portal (main site) plus a visit to North Embankment (where HS2/Align started their viaduct work) and drove through the jetty to cover the length of the viaduct. They also had the chance to hear from a professional engineer on site about their career and work on the project.

Review by Ayman Ahmed

This experience to the HS2 south portal trip in Maple Cross was educational and informative. It was interesting to understand and learn about different aspects of the HS2 construction site. We started the day by going on a shuttle bus tour around the site seeing the huge factories, machines and the workers accommodation. We then proceeded to have lunch and had a chance to speak to the main quantity surveyor. In the afternoon we then got changed into bright orange PPE and had an on-foot tour, seeing the colossal machines and how they are operated.