

TDR Trust Newsletter

No 1/December 2015

The Ron Dodd TDR Trust Fund

The fund was established in 2013 by the Ex Chairman of TDR Ron Dodd and his brother Eric, they wanted to provide a way to help young people pursue a career in STEM. Eric and Ron donated cash (TDR also contributes to this Fund whenever it can). To-date five people have benefited from sponsorship (there is a little more detail about the beneficiaries below. If you would like further information about the current students or how to nominate someone please contact Pat Leach).

Calvin Wakeford - who studied Engineering at Cambridge University. TDR and British Engines provided him with a year's work placement before embarking on his degree. Calvin successfully graduated and is now Project Engineer with British Engines.

Others who have benefited are:

Milan Shukla, an ex pupil from Walbottle School, commenced an apprenticeship with TDR then decided to go to Bradford University to study Engineering. He has successfully completed his first year.

James Jobson—an ex pupil from St Benet Biscop, did the YA Engineering whilst at school with TDR and is now studying Aerospace Engineering at Bristol University.

Grant Ridley— Studying Medicine at Durham University

In addition:

Lewis Heslop— St Thomas More Academy, North Shields. The fund contributed to the cost of the space summer school, NASA, Texas. Lewis is now a trainee engineer at SEVCON.

TDR has also benefitted from the Ron Dodd TDR Trust fund. Ron Dodd approved the purchase of equipment in order to resource the TDR Electrical and Mechanical Workshops.

Future Beneficiaries—it is planned to celebrate TDR Apprentice success via the Ron Dodd TDR Fund. Colin Arkley is working with engineering and science staff to agree success criteria so that nominations can be made to the Trust Panel and awards made. These awards will be made at the end of each academic year.

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TDR Trust also provides independent advice and guidance to school groups and any young person that seeks it. Last year TDR met with a number of school students and their parents to talk through what a STEM apprenticeship is and what exciting opportunities exist in this region.

Already, in this academic year, TDR has participated in the following school events:

Gosforth Academy, focussed talk with 10 x Y12 students who were seeking advice in order to make informed choices between Engineering and Science Apprenticeships and University progression routes. British Engines were also present to give real-life employer perspective on both routes into work.

Gosforth Academy—Y9 to Y13 Target Planning Day where students and their parents we're invited in to meet their Head of Year, followed by an opportunity to meet employers regarding career opportunities.

Bede Academy, Blyth—a presentation to 95 x Y12 students about the diverse career opportunities in the Engineering, Science and Business Admin sectors, as well as detailed information about what apprenticeships entail, content of the framework qualifications, the transferable skills and how to apply.

The Venerable Bede Academy, Sunderland—a new school to TDR which provided the opportunity of meeting keen and committed potential engineering, science and Business Admin apprentices.

TDR has attended similar events at **Burnside Community College, Wallsend; Jarrow School; Harton Technology College, St Thomas More Academy, North Shields.**

Further careers and focussed events have been planned in the New Year at St Thomas More School, Blaydon, Emmanuel College, Gateshead, St Leonards Academy, Durham.

Because resources are limited we are in the process of identifying key schools with which to maintain close links to assist with the recruitment process.

SAVE THE DATES—TDR IS HOSTING TWO APPRENTICE OPEN EVENINGS AT Q1 ON MONDAY 8TH AND WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2016; THERE IS ALSO A BREAKFAST MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2016 FOR NEW AND EXISTING COMPANIES WANTING MORE INFORMATION ON APPRENTICESHIPS. For further details please contact Gemma Yildirim.

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