

Year 13 T Level Students Visit Lawrence David: Engineering in Action



No sooner had our Year 13 T Level students returned from their industry placements than they were straight back into real-world learning — this time with an exciting visit to Lawrence David, one of Peterborough's major engineering and manufacturing employers.

Lawrence David specialises in designing and building lorry trailers for some of the biggest names in the UK. If you've ever wondered who constructs the delivery vehicles for certain major supermarkets, you might be surprised to learn that many of them are built right here in Peterborough.

During the visit, our students explored the full engineering process behind trailer production, from concept to construction. They were able to see how the CAD skills they are developing on their T Level course

translate directly into industry practice — from technical drawings and component design to problem-solving and refinement.

This visit offered brilliant insight into how engineering disciplines come together within a high-demand manufacturing environment. Students came away with a deeper understanding of how their learning fits into real-world applications and the huge variety of career paths available in this sector.

A huge thank you to Lewis and Ryan from Lawrence David for hosting us and for giving our learners such a valuable experience. We're excited to continue building this relationship and are already looking forward to collaborating on a project with them in the near future.



Respect

Readiness

Responsibility

Resilience

Year 8 Engineers Design, Build and Showcase Their Own Litter Pickers

Our Year 8 engineering class has enjoyed a truly inspiring start to the year, taking on a full end-to-end engineering project that brought creativity, teamwork and industry insight together in a powerful learning experience. As part of their introduction to mechanical engineering, students were challenged to design, manufacture and test their very own working litter pickers — a project that combined technical skill with environmental responsibility.

Working in teams, students approached the task just like real engineers. They researched existing mechanisms, sketched ideas, evaluated materials, tested prototypes and created a detailed engineering portfolio to document their decisions and improvements. This approach helped them understand not only what engineers do, but how engineers think.

Once built, the students trialled their litter pickers around the school grounds and local park, contributing directly to their environmental pledge. Seeing their devices functioning in real conditions gave them a real sense of ownership and pride.

A standout moment came when Year 8 showcased their work at Business Partner Day. Each team presented their litter picker and portfolio to vis-

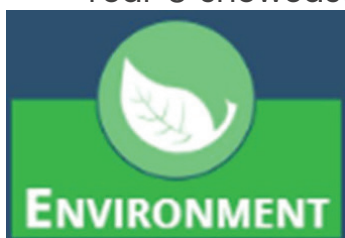
iting employers from across the engineering, manufacturing and sustainability sectors. The feedback they received was exceptional:

"The Y8 students presenting did incredibly well. They were enthusiastic, prepared and engaging — exactly what we look for when interviewing candidates. Please pass this on to them and their teachers; they should be very proud."

This praise meant a great deal to the students, offering them a real sense of achievement and showing them how valued their skills already are in the eyes of industry.

To complete the project, students then visited Viridor's Energy Recovery Facility in Fengate, where they explored the journey of Peterborough's waste beyond the bin. They gained insight into automated sorting systems, mechanical processing, and how residual waste is converted into energy. The experience connected perfectly with their environmental engineering theme.

Viridor shared their own feedback following the visit:



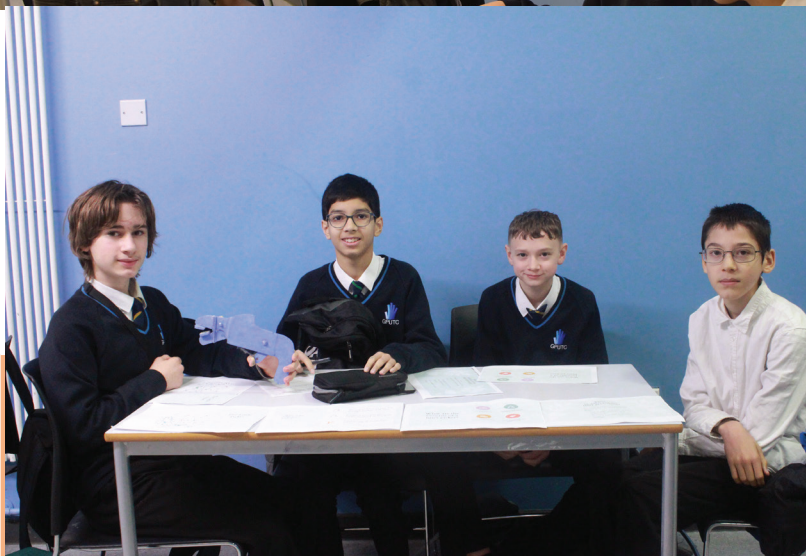


"It was a pleasure to welcome two groups from GPUTC last week. The level of engagement in the activities was a real joy to see. All the students brought a wonderful energy to the site. I particularly loved the curiosity and interest shown in the process of treating the city's residual waste here at the ERF."

This glowing feedback reflects not only the students' enthusiasm and conduct, but also their ability to engage meaningfully with complex industrial processes — something we are incredibly proud of.

Through designing, creating, testing, presenting and exploring real engineering environments, our Year 8 students experienced a truly immersive introduction to STEM. Their curiosity, resilience and teamwork have set a brilliant foundation for the rest of the year.

Well done Year 8's you should be very proud of yourselves.



Howden Turbo Inspires Students During Industry Insight Day

Students across all year groups recently took part in an engaging Industry Insight Day delivered by Howden Turbo UK, one of Peterborough's most established engineering companies. Formerly known locally as Peter Brotherhood, Howden has a proud engineering heritage within the region and continues to play a significant role in the design and manufacture of steam turbines and industrial engineering solutions used around the world.

As part of our commitment to ensuring every student benefits from meaningful encounters with employers, tailored sessions were delivered throughout the day, introducing students to the world of engineering and the diverse career opportunities available within a global organisation. Representatives from Howden explained not only what the company does, but also the wide range of roles that contribute to its success, including engineering, design, project management, manufacturing, finance, procurement, sales and human resources.

Students also gained valuable insight into the qualifications, skills and subjects needed for different career pathways. A key takeaway for many was the importance of Mathematics, Physics and English, with students recognising how these subjects underpin careers across engineering and industry. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. Almost all students were able to correctly identify Howden Turbo's core business, demonstrating strong engagement and retention of the session's key messages. Communication and confident public speaking emerged as the most frequently identified employability skills, with students recognising their importance within professional environments.

Many students particularly connected with the personal career journeys shared by the

presenters. Marta and Andrew were frequently mentioned in feedback, with their stories of working in industry, product design and CAD providing authentic examples of where engineering careers can lead. Their experiences helped students understand that career pathways are often varied and full of opportunity. Perhaps most encouragingly, a significant number of students expressed interest in future workshops with the company, highlighting a strong appetite for continued employer engagement and deeper exploration of careers in engineering.

We are extremely grateful to Howden Turbo for supporting our students and helping them understand how their classroom learning can translate into exciting future careers. Experiences such as these continue to raise aspirations, broaden horizons and strengthen the vital connection between education and industry.



VOGAL GROUP



Hands-On Welding Experience with Vogal: Inspiring Future Engineers

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, we were thrilled to welcome Vogal on-site to deliver an exciting welding masterclass for our students. With strong interest during the pre-application stage, it was fantastic to see even more students eager to get involved on the day, including those who were already working in the engineering workshop.

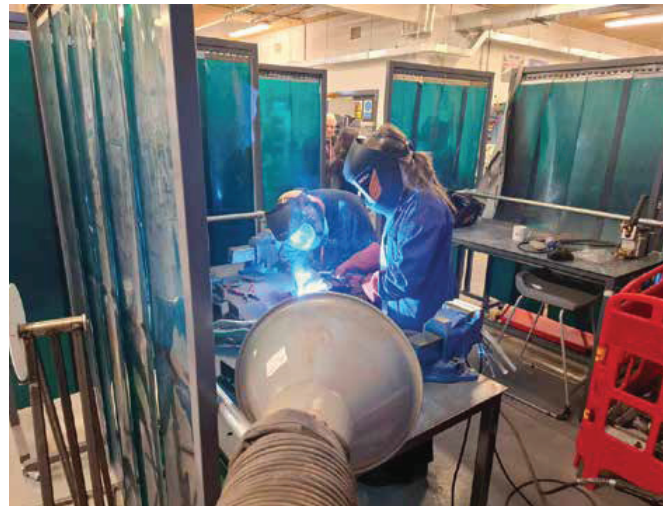
Led by Syd, an expert instructor from Vogal, students from Years 9 to 13 had the chance to don workcoats and welding masks, gaining hands-on experience with welding techniques. We were especially pleased to see female students stepping forward to give it a go, further proving that engineering is for everyone!

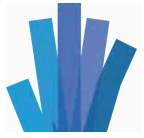
The students were incredibly proud of

their finished welded pieces, and their enthusiasm didn't go unnoticed—Vogal were highly impressed, even identifying some students as potential future apprentices.

We are also excited to announce that Vogal will be continuing their support with future welding sessions at GPUTC, helping students gain real-world experience while still in school. As part of this, we are now trying to come up with a catchy name for our Vogal Welding Bay—a dedicated space where students can develop their welding skills under expert guidance.

A huge thank you to Vogal for providing such an engaging and career-inspiring experience. We can't wait to see where these new skills and opportunities take our students in the future!





T Level Students Making Strides – Codem

On 10th December, the students ventured to Codem Composites in Orton Southgate for another enriching site visit. Here, they were introduced to the fascinating world of composite lamination. The team at Codem explained how moulds are designed using CAD software (a tool our students already work with in their studies), how those designs are CNC milled, and how materials such as carbon fibre and flax are laminated to create high-performance components. Witnessing the advanced processes and precision involved in composite engineering brought their classroom lessons to life and highlighted the critical role composites play in industries like aerospace, motorsport, and renewable energy.

But the learning doesn't stop there. We're thrilled to announce that Codem Composites will be visiting us in the new year for an Industry Insight Day, giving students even more opportunities to interact with industry professionals, ask questions, and learn about potential career paths.

This event will also hopefully mark the launch of Codem Corner, a dedicated space in our

school to teach within curriculum the art of composite manufacture. This initiative is a testament to the strong relationship we've built with our business partners and their commitment to supporting our students' growth.

These site visits and industry partnerships are critical to the success of Greater Peterborough UTC. They provide our students with the chance to see how their classroom learning applies in real-world contexts, inspire them with cutting-edge innovations, and open their eyes to the diverse career opportunities within mechanical engineering.

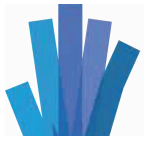
A heartfelt thank you to Omega Sinto Foundry and Codem Composites for their continued support and dedication to our students. These opportunities go far beyond traditional learning, equipping our young people with the skills, insights, and inspiration to thrive in the ever-evolving world of engineering. We can't wait to see how these experiences shape their futures and look forward to even more exciting opportunities in 2024!





M & K Trading Ltd

Paper & Board Machinery



GPUTC Students Shine at the Sheet Plant Association Conference

At GPUTC, we are passionate about providing real-world industry experiences that prepare our students for future careers. This term, a group of our students had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Sheet Plant Association (SPA) Conference, a key industry event that brings together professionals from the corrugated packaging sector.

Our involvement in this event was particularly significant as our business partner M&K Trading is part of the Sheet Plant Association and they had specifically invited us to contribute.

The packaging industry is actively working to understand how to attract young talent into what could be perceived as a 'boring' sector. To tackle this, two of our students were given the stage to answer key questions from industry leaders about how businesses can better promote themselves to the next generation.

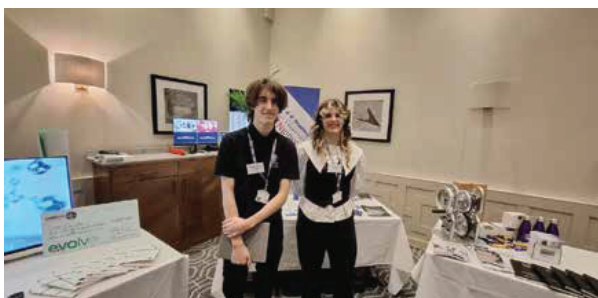
The conference offered valuable insights for our students to understand the industry better and they had the chance to: Engage with industry leaders,

Discover cutting-edge innovations in packaging and automation and understand the engineering and manufacturing processes behind this vital industry.

One of the standout moments of the conference was the Discussion Panel, where our students took centre stage, confidently sharing their insights and experiences. Their contributions were so impactful that, according to post-event feedback surveys, this panel was voted the best part of the entire conference!

We are incredibly proud of our students for their professionalism, confidence, and willingness to engage in meaningful discussions with industry experts. Their feedback and fresh perspectives were truly valued, showing just how important it is to bridge the gap between education and industry.

A huge thank you to the Sheet Plant Association for hosting such an inspiring and insightful event and for welcoming our students so warmly. We look forward to continuing this fantastic partnership, ensuring our students remain at the forefront of exciting industry opportunities.



Wayne Jones

Your students were wonderful! They gave the much older audience some amazing insights into perceptions of our industry. From the feedback received so far, delegates have marked the Discussion Panel as the most valuable presentation slot of the day. You have every reason to be incredibly proud of them both. We hope they find an opportunity to join our industry, we ...more

Like · 2 · Reply



Wayne Jones · 3rd+
Compliance Manager

2d · ...

Superb to hear the views and observations. Makes me think how confident youngsters are today and we need to nurture that. I'm sure all of us took away the thoughts of we need 'to do better as an industry' on selling what we do



Business Partner Day Connects Students with Future Opportunities

Students from a range of backgrounds, took part in another highly successful Business Partner Day back in April, providing meaningful opportunities to engage directly with employers, industry professionals and business leaders while gaining valuable insight into future education, employment and training pathways.

Throughout the day, students explored current Labour Market Information (LMI), emerging career pathways and the skills and behaviours that employers value most highly within today's workforce. The session helped students understand both local and national employment trends, encouraging them to reflect on their own strengths, interests and aspirations while developing a clearer understanding of the opportunities available to them in the future.

One of the highlights of the day was hearing from students who had recently completed international work experience placements in Malta through the Turing Scheme. Their honest reflections provided valuable insight into the challenges and rewards of working abroad, demonstrating the confidence, resilience and independence that can develop when young people step beyond their comfort zones.

The event also provided opportunities for students to showcase their own work and achievements. Our Year 9 Business Studies students presented their T-Shirt Design Project to business partners, receiving professional feedback and industry perspectives that will help inform and refine their future work. Meanwhile, our Year 8 Science Fair finalists exhibited their climate-focused investigation projects ahead of the Meridian Trust Science Fair Finals, giving them an invaluable opportunity to practise presenting their findings to external audiences.

Our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) students also showcased and discussed their independent research projects, demonstrating the high levels of enquiry, analysis and communication skills they have developed through their studies.

Three Year 10 students confidently presented to an audience of almost 100 guests, sharing the impact of their recent work experience placements. Their willingness to speak publicly demonstrated the confidence, resilience, professionalism and communication skills that continue to develop through the UTC experience.

A particularly powerful element of the day was a discussion panel focused on the important topic of youth unemployment. Chief Executive Officer from the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce Charlotte Horobin shared perspectives on the region's latest employment figures before joining employers and students in a thought-provoking discussion about opportunities, challenges and skills needed for future success.

Experiences such as these help students engage with real-world issues, understand current labour market trends and appreciate the relevance of their learning to the wider economy.

Business Partner Day remains a powerful example of how collaboration between education and industry can inspire ambition, develop employability skills and help students make informed decisions about their future.





Respect

Readiness

Responsibility

Resilience

T Level Success: Year 13 Students Shine on Industry Placement

The first part of the new term felt unusually quiet in our Sixth Form area — and for good reason. Our Year 13 T Level Engineering students were all out completing the main block of their industry placements. Many had already begun with a two-week placement before the summer break, and then spent the whole of September through to mid-October working full-time with their employers. A small number will complete their remaining two weeks after exams next year.

Even though the building felt emptier, our connection with the students certainly didn't stop. We checked in regularly, and the feedback we received from employers — along with the photos shared — made us incredibly proud. Their professionalism, attitude and willingness to learn received glowing praise across the board.

The T Level qualification is still relatively new, and adapting to change can sometimes be a challenge. But not for our students, and not for our business partners. Both have embraced the model wholeheartedly and recognise just how valuable this extended placement is. It acts as the perfect “try before you buy” opportunity — giving students what is essentially an eight-week job interview, and giving employers the chance to see genuine potential develop in real time.

Each student had to apply formally for their placement, many going through interviews before being offered their roles. This mirrors the real-world recruitment process and

helps them build confidence, independence and communication skills.

The impact has been remarkable. Not only did students receive excellent feedback, but around 80% are hopeful for an apprenticeship offer from their placement employer when they finish next year. Employers have echoed this enthusiasm, recognising the return on investment that comes from developing talent early — students who already understand the company, systems, culture and expectations before they even start.

We are incredibly grateful to our business partners for their commitment to supporting young people and proud of every student who represented GPUTC with maturity, skill and determination. These placements are more than just work experience — they are the launchpad for future careers



Respect

Readiness

Responsibility

Resilience

STIRLINGMAYNARD

CONSULTING ENGINEERS



Industry Insight Day: Exploring Civil & Structural Engineering with Stirling Maynard

We were fortunate to host not one but two Industry Insight Days this term, providing our students with valuable real-world exposure to different career paths. This time, we welcomed Zeba from Stirling Maynard, who delivered an engaging and interactive session on the world of civil and structural engineering.

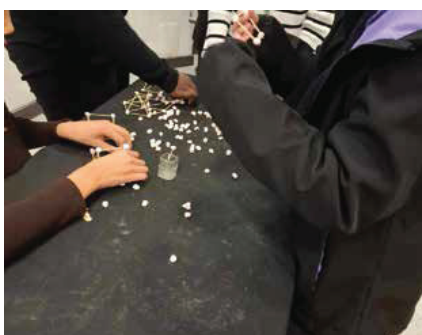
Students had the unique opportunity to hear from an industry expert about how subjects such as Maths, Physics, Art, and even Geography play a crucial role in engineering. Zeba provided insight into real-world projects, showing how engineers design and construct the infrastructure that shapes our everyday lives.

In addition to the talk, students participated in hands-on activities,

putting their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test. They built structures using marshmallows and cocktail sticks, as well as experimenting with a Mola Structure Kit, gaining a deeper understanding of engineering principles and structural stability in a fun and interactive way.

At GPUTC, we deeply value our business partners, as they help our students connect their studies to real careers and see the vast opportunities available to them. The world truly is an ocean of opportunity, and experiences like this allow our students to explore, discover, and aspire to exciting futures.

A huge thank you to Zeba and Stirling Maynard for inspiring our students and making engineering come to life!





Critical Thinking Workshop Challenges Students to Think Differently

As part of our targeted support and intervention programme, students in Years 8 and 9 participated in a two-day Critical Thinking Workshop delivered by our partner MoreEfficient AI.

The programme was designed to support students who may benefit from additional engagement opportunities and focused on helping them develop skills in questioning, analysis and seeing challenges from different perspectives.

Led by Pete from MoreEfficient AI and Andrew from Howden Turbo, students explored topics including decision-making, problem-solving and critical evaluation. A particularly memorable discussion around recycling generated more than 45 minutes of thoughtful debate and demonstrated the high levels of engagement students brought to the sessions.

Students completed workbooks throughout the programme and received certificates recognising their participation. Many cited the “5 Whys” technique as the most memorable part of the workshop, helping them understand the importance of asking deeper questions and exploring root causes.



Network Rail and Talent Foundry Prepare Students for Recruitment Success



Year 12 and 13 students benefited from a workshop delivered by The Talent Foundry and Network Rail, focused on helping them prepare for future recruitment processes. Students gained first-hand experience of assessment centres, group exercises and interview techniques, developing a clear understanding of what employers look for during recruitment.

The practical nature of the workshop allowed students to develop confidence and refine their employability skills in a supportive environment. The impact has already been evident, with several students

successfully securing apprenticeship opportunities this year.



Respect

Readiness

Responsibility

Resilience

Year 8 Engineers Experience Modern Work Experience in Action

This year, we successfully piloted a new Modern Work Experience project with our Year 8 Design Technology students, aligning with the national ambition to provide young people with progressive, meaningful workplace experiences throughout their education journey.

The programme began with an Industry Insight Day delivered by our valued partner, Howden Turbo, introducing students to the world of engineering, steam turbine manufacture and the wide range of careers available within a global engineering business. Students explored career pathways, workplace roles and the skills and qualifications required to succeed within the sector.

Students then visited Howden Turbo's manufacturing facility in Werrington, where they experienced the workplace first-hand. Seeing steam turbines in production enabled them to connect classroom learning directly to industry and gain a deeper understanding of engineering processes, teamwork and problem-solving in a real-world environment.

Following the visit, students applied their learning through an employer-linked design project. Working from an authentic engineering brief, they were challenged to design a turbine lifting system, requiring them to analyse requirements, develop solutions and understand how engineers respond to workplace challenges. Students are currently building prototype models and refining their designs.

Although time did not allow this year's cohort to present their final solutions back to Howden Turbo, this important element will form part of the programme moving forward, enabling students to receive profes-



sional feedback and further develop their presentation and communication skills.

The project has provided students with approximately 15 hours of Modern Work Experience, contributing towards the 50-hour entitlement expected by the end of Year 11. More impor-



tantly, it has strengthened career readiness by helping students investigate career opportunities, explore industry expectations and apply their knowledge within a meaningful workplace context. It has been an excellent example of how employer partnerships can bridge the gap between education and industry while supporting informed future career choices. This year, we successfully piloted a new Modern Work Experience project with our Year 8 Design Technology students, aligning with the national ambition to provide young people with progressive, meaningful workplace experiences throughout their education journey.

The programme began with an Industry Insight Day delivered by our valued partner, Howden Turbo, introducing students to the world of engineering, steam turbine manufacture and the wide range of careers available within a global engineering business. Students explored career pathways, workplace roles and the skills and qualifications required to succeed within the sector.

Students then visited Howden Turbo's manu-



facturing facility in Werrington, where they experienced the workplace first-hand. Seeing steam turbines in production enabled them to connect classroom learning directly to industry and gain a deeper understanding of engineering processes, teamwork and problem-solving in a real-world environment.

Following the visit, students applied their learning through an employer-linked design project. Working from an authentic engineering brief, they were challenged to design a turbine lifting system, requiring them to analyse requirements, develop solutions and

understand how engineers respond to workplace challenges. Students are currently building prototype models and refining their designs.

Although time did not allow this year's cohort to present their final solutions back to Howden Turbo, this important element will form part of the programme moving forward, enabling students to receive professional feedback and further develop their presentation and communication skills.

LESSON 2

Research & Investigate — How Wind Turbines Work

Investigate & Explore

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain how kinetic energy in wind converts to mechanical work.
- Describe the key components of a wind turbine.
- Use the wind power equation to understand turbine output.
- Link turbine design decisions to engineering principles.

MAIN TASK (25 min)

- Label the turbine diagram: Blade · Hub · Shaft · Nacelle · Tower · Generator.
- Complete the energy transfer chain below.
- Work through the Maths Challenge.

STARTER QUIZ (10 min)

- Q1: What energy form does wind contain?
- Q2: Name two renewables other than wind.
- Q3: What unit measures power?
- Q4: What % of UK electricity came from wind in 2023?

ENERGY TRANSFER CHAIN

WIND (Kinetic Energy) → BLADES spin → SHAFT rotates → SPOOL winds string → MASS stored

MATHS

Wind Power Equation: $P = \frac{1}{2} \times \pi \times r^2 \times \rho \times v^3$
Where: P = Power (W) · r = blade radius (m) · ρ = air density (1.225 kg/m³) · v = wind speed (m/s)
Q1: If $r = 0.15$ m and $v = 5$ m/s, calculate P . Show your working below.
Q2: If wind speed doubles, what happens to P ? (Hint: look at v^3) Answer: _____

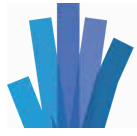
TURBINE DIAGRAM

Label the parts below (sketch in the box)

Sketch or label here: Blade · Hub · Shaft · Nacelle · Tower · Foundation · Generator

CHALLENGE

- Share energy transfer chain — does another team agree?
- Define KINETIC ENERGY and POWER in your own words.
- Which factor in the equation matters most for YOUR turbine?



T Level Students Making Strides – Omega Sinto

This September, we proudly launched our T Level course in Design and Development in Engineering with a focus on Mechanical Engineering, and what a fantastic start it has been! Our inaugural cohort is an incredible group of motivated students eager to explore the exciting opportunities this field has to offer. With the T Level's focus on practical, hands-on learning and industry engagement, we are incredibly fortunate to have the support of some outstanding business partners who are committed to helping shape the engineers of tomorrow.

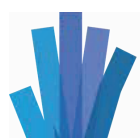
Industry exposure has been a key component of this first term, and our students have already had the privilege of participating in two invaluable site visits. These experiences have given them a first-hand look at real-world engineering environments, allowing them to apply their classroom learning in meaningful ways and gain a deeper understanding of the industry.

On 22nd November, our T Level students visited Omega Sinto Foundry in Woodston. This was an incredible opportunity to see the casting process up close and learn about the inner workings of a busy production facility. Alan Stones, Omega Sinto's Production Manager, gave a detailed factory tour and explained each step of the casting process, from mould preparation to final production.

Students were particularly excited to be among the first to experience Omega's innovative Virtual Reality (VR) system, which is being used to simulate and improve factory workflows. This cutting-edge technology demonstrated how traditional manufacturing processes can evolve with digital tools, sparking curiosity and excitement about the future of engineering.

Lewis was also with us for the visit to go and see all of his new work colleagues as he has had his apprenticeship confirmed for after his GCSEs.





Strengthening Business Partnerships for Student Success

At GPUTC, we are continually working closely with our business partners to enhance student engagement, increase awareness of the working world, and encourage valuable interactions that prepare our young people for their future careers. This term, we had the privilege of presenting to the Opportunity Peterborough Bondholder Network, where we showcased how we link Education and Industry to support our students on their journey toward their desired career destinations.

We were joined by Alan Stones, Production Manager for Omega Sinto, who presented alongside us. Alan shared his experience of collaborating with GPUTC, stating:

"We have recently been engaging with GPUTC and have finally found a one-stop area to help grow our younger talent. Previously, we worked with other establishments that would only deal with one or maybe two areas. The support of GPUTC means we only need to work with one connection, making it much easier to develop the next generation of skilled professionals."

We were also incredibly proud of our very own Lewis, who did an excellent job presenting alongside Alan and Tony Irving. Lewis represented GPUTC brilliantly, showcasing his enthusiasm for the school and the opportunities ahead.

He is now busy lining up his own apprenticeship with Omega Sinto, and we are thrilled to see him taking such confident steps toward his future career.

In addition to this, we are excited to welcome MAM Solutions and GCE Hire Fleet.

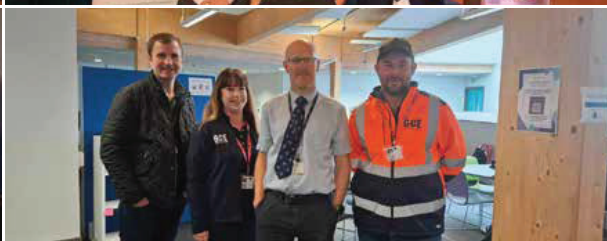
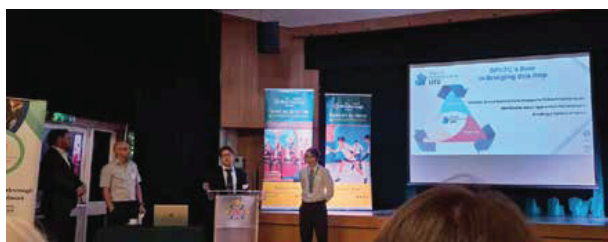
Martin McMahon from MAM Solutions visited the school and had an insightful chat with our Sixth Form students. Both sides found the experience extremely beneficial, and the students were inspired by the advice and industry knowledge shared.

Following their visit, Dan Harris, Jack Harman, and Katie Bratt from GCE Hire Fleet expressed their excitement about potential collaboration with GPUTC. They are now working behind the scenes on some exciting projects aimed at supporting our students. Dan Harris remarked:

"We were exactly what they were looking for to develop their talent pool," and we are eager to see how this partnership will help open doors for our students in the near future.

In addition to these collaborations, we're delighted to announce our newest partnership with James Hurford, who will be working with GPUTC students to develop Speaking, Presenting, and Confidence skills. James brings a wealth of experience in communication, and his expertise will be invaluable as students learn to articulate their ideas clearly and confidently. These skills are essential for our students' future careers, and we're excited to see how James's guidance helps them thrive.

We are proud of the strong connections we continue to build with industry leaders, and we look forward to more exciting opportunities for our students to engage with the working world, gain valuable insights, and prepare for their future careers.



Year 10 Work Experience: Building Confidence, Skills and Future Careers

March, an impressive 92% of our Year 10 students secured and completed two weeks of work experience, providing them with valuable insight into the world of work and helping them develop the skills required for future education, employment and training.

Students worked across a wide range of sectors, supported by our fantastic employer partners including Howden, Caterpillar, Pearce Hire, Anglian Water, Enertherm Technologies, Stirling Maynard, Millfield Autos, 3D Greaves, Atkins-Réalís and Omega Sinto, alongside many other organisations. We are extremely grateful for their continued commitment to supporting our young people.

Employer feedback highlighted significant growth in students' confidence, communication skills and professional behaviours. One employer noted a student's transformation from being initially shy and hesitant to communicating confidently with a wide range of colleagues.

Others praised students' resilience, determination and willingness to seek support, with several demonstrating impressive progress in engineering design, CAD software and workplace problem-solving. A recurring theme across the feedback was the development of employability skills. Employers reported improvements in teamwork, professional communication, presentation skills, questioning techniques and technical proficiency using industry-standard software such as SolidWorks and Microsoft Office applications.

Perhaps most importantly, students acted upon the feedback they received. Following their placements, several volunteered to present at our Business Part-

ner Day, speaking to an audience of more than 100 employers, partners and guests. Many were reunited with the organisations that had hosted them just weeks earlier, giving them an opportunity to demonstrate how much their confidence and professionalism had grown.

These experiences continue to show the transformational impact of meaningful employer engagement. Work experience not only helps students understand future career pathways but also develops confidence, independence and the workplace skills that will support their future success.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students and thankful to all the employers who continue to help us create the workforce of tomorrow.

