

Skills Minister Visits Careers Lab

Nick Boles MP praises Careers Lab Ambassadors for the work they're doing to inspire young people about the world of work

10 Dec 2014

- **FTSE 100 CEO will say businesses need to inspire students in the classroom to avert a skills crisis**
- **Steve Holliday will call on UK 1000 business volunteers to get involved in Business in the Community's careers education programme**
- **Skills Minister will say businesses have a duty to prepare students for the roles of the future**

National Grid CEO, Steve Holliday joined Skills Minister Nick Boles MP in a north London classroom today to call on volunteers from business to help students across the UK understand the real skills needed to build a successful career.

During the visit, organised by Business in the Community (BITC), the minister and the energy boss delivered a careers lesson to a classroom of Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 students from Mount Carmel Catholic College for Girls, using the Careers Lab framework.

Developed by a group of companies including National Grid, HS2 and CapGemini but now driven by Business in the Community, Careers Lab helps businesses and employers work with teachers to devise and deliver inspirational careers lessons in the classroom.

Face to face time with employers is proven to have a significant impact on young people's career prospects, with research suggesting that students that receive four or more employer contacts during school will be five times less likely to be NEET (not in employment, education or training)

Business in the Community aims to bring on board 1,000 businesses volunteers in 600 schools across the country over the next year and Steve Holliday used today's visit to challenge employers around the country to support the national roll-out of 'Careers Lab'.

He said: "Business needs to significantly increase the number of times they engage with students whilst in school if we are to tackle the skills crisis in the UK. Over 700,000 employers annually say they're struggling to fill vacancies because people don't have the right skills for the job. That's having a real impact on the economic growth of this country.

"If businesses want that to change, then they must send volunteers into schools to inspire young people to think about their careers and show them where the jobs will be.

"Business in the Community provides employers and schools with the tools to do this. Careers Lab is designed to make it as easy as possible for volunteers from businesses to support teachers. This has the potential to make a huge difference to many young lives and we urge more employers and employees to get involved."

Speaking after the visit Nick Boles MP, said: "The impact of real people from local businesses in the classroom preparing young people for their working lives cannot be underestimated. Connecting students with what really makes people successful in the workplace sets off that light bulb which focuses them on where they want to be. Business have duty to help young people understand the skills they need for future careers"

Nicole Haynes, Principal the College said: "We see huge value in giving our students exposure to business practice. As a girls school it's particularly important to challenge career stereotypes. Getting ambassadors from business into schools to work alongside the teachers and inspire the pupils is a great way to do this."

Susie Perrett, Director of Education at Business in the Community who are driving Careers Lab forward said: "Schools like Mount Carmel demonstrate the impact that high-quality partnerships between businesses and schools have on the employability of young people. More employers across the UK must play their part in supporting young people and promoting equality of opportunity, Careers Lab is a great way for them to achieve this."

Business or schools interested in Careers Lab can find out more at www.careerslab.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

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In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain
- We own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
- Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 10.9 million homes and businesses
- We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering
- National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
- Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain LNG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid. It undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

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Notes for editors

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National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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