

News Release

For Immediate Release

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INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS

CE SOUTH WEST LAUNCHES ADOPT A SCHOOL COMPETITION

- **CESW launches 'Adopt a School' competition tasking pupils to design a place they'd like to live**
- **Construction professionals will provide real-life insight to help students shape entries**
- **Proposals should address the impact of the sustainability agenda and its impact on where and how they live into the future**

Constructing Excellence South West (CESW) has launched a new 'Adopt a School' competition giving Year 9 students the opportunity to work with construction industry to design their ideal home and place to live.

Working together with CESW partner companies, teams of pupils aged 13 and 14 are being asked to prepare an outline proposal for their dream home as part of a development comprising 25 houses on a brownfield site of their choice. Their proposals must consider the environmental impact of those buildings and wider community. The best team submissions will then be invited to a South West regional final where an overall winning proposal will be selected.

"The aim of the competition is twofold", explains **Emma Hannam, CESW 'Adopt a School' Coordinator**. "It tasks students to think creatively about one of the biggest challenges the housing sector faces – providing sustainable high-quality housing that's fit for the future – while also introducing school age children to the range of career opportunities the built environment offers them."

"The skills shortage looms large over the UK construction industry. We have an ageing workforce and with fewer young people than ever opting to pursue a career in construction. That means we are struggling to recruit new talent into the industry to replace those retiring, never mind fill the anticipated 158,000 new jobs that will be created over the next few years.

"It's in everyone's interest to make sure we're helping young people in school see the value of a pursuing a career in construction, and directly challenge some of the stereotypes often held. So this competition has been designed to do just that. Ultimately we hope it will inspire youngsters to explore the path to a rewarding career in construction."

The competition builds on the success of CESW's established 'Adopt a School' campaign which launched in 2014 as a vehicle to promote the construction industry as an aspirational career choice for

young people and improve its image. Since then, over 50 schools from across the South West have 'buddied-up' with construction-related companies including Kier, Willmott Dixon, Campbell Reith, Acorn Blue and SW Highways, enabling students to take part in school-based events including career fairs, site visits, and talks.

Final entries must define the scheme layout, provide a schedule of areas showing approximate total site area in hectares, building footprint and total floor areas in m², and show how the proposed site relates to its surrounding area. Furthermore, they must also demonstrate how the scheme proposed addresses a range of economic, environmental and community issues right through from initial design, planning and construction to occupation.

Debbie Gibbs, principal of IKB Academy, said: "It is really important for us to collaborate with local employers in the STEM sector. The Adopt a School programme is a great way to make those links for the benefit of the students and the businesses that are involved."

"More importantly the input of our partner companies to help students develop their competition entries will give them real-life contextual support which directly complements their studies – particularly human geography – and raises awareness about the sustainability agenda and how it will impact where and how they live."

If you are a school or a business who would like to participate in the Adopt a School Campaign, please contact **Emma Hannam, Adopt a School Coordinator** emma.hannam@cesw.org.uk. Emma will be happy to help you to find a school or company to buddy up with and facilitate introductory meetings.

Alternatively more information about the competition can be found at: www.constructingexcellencesw.org.uk/adopt-a-school/cesw-schools-comp2018



David Stern from Acorn, an independent development and regeneration specialist, on site with Year 7-9 students from Redruth School, Cornwall.



Pupils and Principal Deborah Gibbs (centre) from IKB Academy Bath pictured with representatives from Adopt a School partner company Campbell Reith.

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Notes to editors:

- Constructing Excellence is the not-for-profit best practice and knowledge transfer organisation which champions excellence through collaboration in the built environment sector. In 2016 Constructing Excellence became part of the BRE (Building Research Establishment) Trust's group of companies.
- Constructing Excellence Regional Partnership (CERP) exists to improve industry performance and produce a better built environment. We are a cross-sector, cross-supply chain, member led organisation operating for the good of industry and its stakeholders.
- Constructing Excellence South West is the single organisation charged with driving the change agenda in construction within the south west region and we form part of the Constructing Excellence Regional Partnership (CERP). We exist to improve industry performance to produce a better built environment. We are a cross-sector, cross-supply chain, member led organisation operating for the good of industry and its stakeholders.
- More information about the Club and its membership is available online: www.constructingexcellencebristolclub.com