

MCA LSBU SPRING NEWSLETTER

March 2020

As the Covid 19 pandemic hits the UK, we thought we would take the opportunity to update you on what we have been doing at MCA LSBU and endeavor to give you some positive news.

Activities Jan – March 2020

Apprenticeship Roadshows



We started the year planning a series of Apprenticeship Roadshows. We held a roadshow in each of our 3 boroughs. The purpose of these was to dispel some of the myths surrounding construction and apprenticeships and encourage more people into the sector. We were also able to offer advice and guidance to those attending and promote the vacancies our construction employers had.

T-Level Workshop



T-Levels are due to commence in September 2020 and include a 45 day work placement. We held a workshop which was attended by construction employers, colleges, LSBU, Construction Youth Trust and other interested parties. We identified the following positives of T-Levels during the workshop:

Opportunity to "try before you buy"
Improved collaboration opportunities
Link to apprenticeships
Better informed students
Soft skills development
Caters for different learning styles
Earlier employer involvement
Public perception (equivalent to A-levels)

We also considered the challenges from both a college and employer perspective.

The key to a successful placement is the preparation and planning beforehand.

We weren't able to answer all the questions and identified a number of areas that needed further clarification.

If you want to find out more about T-Levels contact us at mcasupport@lsbu.ac.uk

Case Studies & Videos

We have produced some great case study videos which are just having the final touches done. Thanks to the apprentices from LSBU and the Skills Centre for being willing to be filmed. They all did fantastically and are great construction apprentice ambassadors. We'll share the videos with you shortly.

STAYS SAFE AND STAY POSITIVE



Support For Employers

- The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) published [Site Operating Procedures](#) 24 March 2020 as a practical guide for businesses to protect their workforce in line with PHE guidelines at this time
- [Build UK](#) have compiled resources detailing all relevant government financial support packages. Also [detailed guidance](#) on contractual issues caused by coronavirus.
- [The Lighthouse Club](#) provides financial and emotional support to the construction community and their families who have suffered an injury or long-term illness. They have launched a [Construction Workers Family Crisis Appeal](#) to enable them to continue providing services (including emergency cash grants) to the workforce. They are not publicly funded.
- [CITB -Claiming apprenticeship grants in advance](#) As announced, CITB is making available advanced payment of apprenticeship attendance grants for apprentices in their second and third year of apprenticeship programmes (full press release [here](#)). The payments will be available from 6 April for apprentices already receiving CITB grant support and who are currently in the second or third year of their apprenticeship for the remainder of the year. To request the advance grant payment please register your details on the form [here](#).
- [CIOB Benevolent Fund](#) is available to members. For students this is applicable from their second year of membership onwards.

Operations Board

At our last Operations Board we discussed ways to encourage more women into construction and had commenced planning some events. However, these are obviously on hold currently.

If you have any suggestions, we'd love to hear them so let us know your idea by emailing them to mcasupport@lsbu.ac.uk.

If you are working in south London (Southwark, Lewisham & Lambeth) and are interested in joining our Operations Board, particularly if you are or represent SMEs, we'd love to hear from you.



(Some of the members of our Op's Board)

The Mayor's Good Work Standard

The Mayor's Good Work Standard brings together best employment practice and links to resources and support from across London to help employers improve their organisations. The initiative has been developed in collaboration with London's employers, professional bodies and experts.

The Good Work Standard sets the benchmark the Mayor wants every London employer to work towards and achieve. Organisations able to meet the Good Work Standard criteria can apply for accreditation and recognition as leading employers from the Mayor.

LSBU were recently awarded the Mayor's Good Work Standard. Congratulations to them.

If you are interested in your organisation applying, go to <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/business-and-economy/supporting-business/what-mayors-good-work-standard>

The MCA LSBU team want to support you during this difficult time. If you have research/ project linked to the MCA LSBU's aims that we can assist with please email Amanda Winder, Hub Co-Ordinator on windera@lsbu.ac.uk

Breyer QS Academy

Through being members of the Operations Board, Liz Obertelli from Breyer and Bola Obisogun from Diverse City Surveyors have collaborated together and developed the Breyer QS Academy. They are offering an 8 week course in Quantity Surveying plus 100+hours paid work experience for 18-24 year olds. Those interested can register now so that when things return to normal, they can attend the programme. For more details please contact:

placeofchange@breyergroup.co.uk or 07935 504 232



(In image from left to right, **Bola Abisogun OBE, Elizabeth Obertelli, Amanda Winder, Darren James**)

Mythbuster Posters

Many of you will be familiar with the Go Construct Mythbuster cards. We have used some of these and developed our own and produced colourful, eye catching posters. These have been distributed to DWP, Skills Centre and to some of our employers.

If you would like a set of posters or want to receive a soft copy, please contact us at MCAsupport@lsbu.ac.uk



**London
South Bank
University**

