



Jarrow School pupils see tunnels' refurbishment

A group of Year 10 geography students from Jarrow School have had a rare glimpse of the refurbishment works currently taking place inside the historic Grade II-listed Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels which run under the River Tyne between Howdon and Jarrow.

Following the visit, the students will create a presentation to inform their classmates about the tunnels and the works, which include the replacement of two of the original wooden-step escalators with inclined lifts.

Teacher, Richard Clarke, said: "The students were fascinated to see the original engineering in the tunnel and the techniques used and issues faced by the main contractor GB Building Solutions. The insight into working in the engineering field or on a construction site was very useful. The trip has given the students a good foundation for their sustainable transport project."

Andy Gibson, project monitoring officer for the North East Combined Authority, which owns the tunnels, said: "We are keen to develop close relationships with schools, especially those near to the tunnels. The £7m investment in the future of the tunnels is mainly for the benefit of local communities. We hope that this visit to a unique structure will stimulate interest and awareness amongst other Jarrow School students and that they become regular users of the tunnels once they re-open later this year."

Marie Buckingham, Regional Managing Director, GB Building Solutions Yorkshire and North East, said: "It's wonderful that so many young people are interested in visiting this project, giving our team the chance to help them learn practical information about our industry. The tunnel refurbishment is a fantastic example of a sustainable transport project, and I'm sure the Jarrow School pupils will have some great insights to pass on to their classmates after their visit."

The tunnels closed for refurbishment in May 2013 for the first time since they opened to the public in 1951. Works include the removal of asbestos and the replacement of lighting, tiles and flooring. The tunnels are expected to re-open in summer 2015.

Picture captions: (1) Year 10 Geography students from Jarrow School pose for a team photograph in the Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels with Harry Twizell, GBBS Project Manager (second row far left); Nicola Mather, GBBS Communities Manager (second row far right) and teacher Richard Clarke, front row far right).

(2) GBBS Project Manager Harry Twizell shows Jarrow School students Ryan Rourke and Adrienne Kearvell the refurbishment works in the Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels.

www.tynepedestrianandcyclisttunnels.co.uk