

3M share innovation with energy pupils

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Pupils from six Aberdeenshire schools, who are enrolled in North East Scotland College's (NESCol) Skills for Work Energy course, have recently visited the 3M Customer Engagement Centre in Aberdeen. This course is designed to encourage more girls to consider careers in the Engineering and Energy sector and is open to pupils aged 14 to 17. Hosted by Dawn Ricketts, Market Development Manager, the all-female classes enjoyed a day designed to highlight some of the exciting and innovative areas that a Science, Engineering, Maths and Technology (STEM) based career can lead to.



Pupils from Fraserburgh Academy at the 3M Customer Engagement Centre..

Head of Business and Community Development for NESCol Duncan Abernethy said, "Visits to industry are an integral part of this year long industry sponsored course – supported by Shell and the Score Group - which leads to a National 5 qualification. The pupils get to meet and talk to professionals in the field which in turn helps them make informed choices about a career in the engineering and energy sector."

Each school began with an interactive exercise thinking about how science has been improving lives over the years with the girls challenged to think about obsolete, current and future products. The pupils witnessed first-hand some of the innovative products created by 3M which have had a positive impact across many sectors including oil and gas, aerospace and construction. Product demonstrations included the ceramic sand screens, well simulation, glass bubbles for light weighting raw materials and fluids as well as active fire protection Novec 1230 and very high bond tapes. These delighted the girls by letting them test their strength.

Dawn Ricketts comments, "It has been a great pleasure to welcome the girls and to share how science has a pivotal role to play in solving problems in everyday life. 3M is a strong and active supporter of UK government initiatives to encourage more young people to study STEM subjects. The skills shortage in the engineering industry is well documented and as an industry we have an important role to play in encouraging youngsters to choose STEM subjects. "

The Skills for Work Energy course is designed to encourage more girls to consider careers in the Engineering and Energy sector and is open to pupils aged 14 to 17 at participating schools which include: Fraserburgh supported by Score and Banff; The Gordon Schools - Huntly; Mintlaw; Peterhead and Turriff which are sponsored by Shell. Currently over 80 young women are enrolled on the course.

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