

RAILNEWS Recruitment

Online Special

PRINCE'S TRUST: Pilot course students visit UK's international station

'Get Into Rail' takes first steps to fill key rail industry vacancies

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AS a pilot 'Get Into Rail' training project drew to its conclusion just before Christmas, Bombardier Transportation, Britain's only remaining train builder, announced that it has become a patron of The Prince's Trust.

The Trust – Prince Charles's charity to help young disadvantaged people who are not in education, employment or training – also announced

All who took part in the project are expected to be found railway jobs

Bombardier's UK chairman Colin Walton as the new chairman of its East Midlands section.

Colin Walton, who is also currently chairman of the Derby and Derbyshire Rail Forum as well as Bombardier's chief country representative in the UK and Ireland, last year led an industry group which developed the pilot 'Get Into Rail' programme, offering intensive training and experience to help young



Princes's Trust students, from left: Craig Barnes, Warren Muir, John Jordan, Antony Dickins, James Redfern, Brandon Else and Leon Cope, with Jon Sneddon of Bombardier, St Pancras International station manager Pasqualino Risi and Mark Tarry of Network Rail.

people get a job.

The course ran for six weeks, during which 10 young people selected by The Prince's Trust were trained for potential future jobs in the rail industry.

The trainees, selected from an initial group of 34 likely applicants, ended their training on 12 December with an

event at the Derby Conference Centre, headquarters of RTC Group, one of the 'Get Into Rail' sponsors along with its subsidiaries ATA Recruitment and Catalis Training.

Other sponsors of the pilot programme were Derbyshire Economic Partnership, East Midlands Trains, Network

Rail, Signal House Group (Collis Engineering), West Nottinghamshire College and Railnews.

Before being given documentation to confirm successful completion of their training, the group also made a day trip to London to visit St Pancras International station. The trip was organised by



New East Midlands region Princes's Trust chairman Colin Walton (left) meets Pete Waterman, who has a keen interest in railway engineering.

Jackie O'Brien, EMT's head of training and development, and Mark Tarry, Network Rail's East Midlands area general manager.

All 10 young men who took part in the pilot project are expected to be found permanent railway jobs, including with EMT, Network Rail or Signal House Group.

The Prince's Trust, together with the sponsoring group, will now review how the 'Get Into Rail' concept can be rolled out to employers in other parts of the rail network to identify and train many more young people to

fill key vacancies.

Bombardier Transportation's new role as a patron of The Prince's Trust was announced at a party at the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

Among the guests was pop music entrepreneur and railway engineering businessman Pete Waterman who, like Bombardier's Colin Walton, has been leading a campaign to improve recruitment and training for the rail industry.

See Paul Whiting's interview with Colin Walton on page 14, and Pete Waterman's Guest Opinion article on page 16.

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