

Catch the Train to My Future – Schools and Business Initiative

- Low-cost, low-emission travel Initiative for Primary and Secondary Schools
- Curriculum development
- Staff training
- Funded by Great Western Railway, supported by Historic England and My Future My Choice

This initiative is in response to -

- The climate emergency and Bristol's target for zero emissions by 2030
- Changes to Ofsted inspection framework, encouraging schools to adopt a local curriculum
- Groundswell of demand from school communities for learning that decolonises history

Aim – 'Catch the Train to My Future' Schools will enhance their curriculum by providing young people with safe travel by rail, ferryboat and foot to explore local heritage, culture and economy as well as connecting them with possible future opportunities in life by working with people from the world of work.

Context - Bristol has a rich heritage, cultural capital and huge support from businesses within the city centre. This should be accessible to all learners. The city and its environs have an expanding network of underused rail links during school hours. Travel from Temple Meads across the city centre is easily linked by ferry boat. This project will integrate the learning on the journey and the city venues with the classroom. **Timescale** –January to June 2022

Partners

MV Balmoral – Historic vessel moored Bristol's Floating Harbour.

Historic England Education – Training and support for developing regional history learning resources

Engine Shed – Collaboration between University of Bristol and Bristol City Council. A Business Enterprise Hub. Tech Start-Ups and the 'future of work' based at Temple Meads in Brunel's historic buildings.

Bristol Port Company - Sponsors of their local schools and providers of site visits to the working Port

My Future My Choice – Education charity linking education to aspiration, working with business, schools and alternative venues for learning

Bristol, North Somerset and S. Gloucester Primary and Secondary Schools.

Bristol Businesses – Volunteers that help to inspire young people

Outcomes

- Training for school staff
- Strategic support from businesses and their employees for learners. Visits to events by rail and ferry boat for young people
- Practical workshops for primary and secondary schools
- Display Badges for schools – 'Catching the Train to My Future School' + GWR and other business logos
- Ticket incentives for parents, carers and families to use the railways during weekends and holidays to see what their children have been doing.



'I just wanted to say a whole-hearted 'thank you' to yourself and everybody who was involved in the trip over the last couple of days. Both staff and students were gushing about the respective days, they also said that the nature of the rail and boat travel was not only pleasant but the information from seeing the waterways really fed into and supported the purpose of the trip. Looking through the pictures taken from the second day, it is literally all smiles.'

Chris Gambrell – Business Manager Bristol Technology Engineering Academy

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