

**ABM UK launches second year of perception change campaign
Triple the number of schools to take part with plans for national outreach**

This month, leading facilities management services provider, ABM UK, kicked off year two of its Junior Engineering Engagement Programme (J.E.E.P) following a successful pilot year with three schools in West London. It aims to tackle perceptions and provide information about engineering, facilities management (FM) and apprenticeships amongst secondary school aged children and their parents.

Supported by education delivery partner, The Transformation Trust, ABM UK will take the immersive programme into nine schools across the UK including schools in London, Leeds, Manchester and Bradford. Running from March to July 2019, year two will see over 150 students participate in the programme. The modules include activities on electrics, cooling and more, with the theme of sustainability running throughout the course.

ABM UK's director, Adam Baker, says: "We're delighted to be in a position where schools across the country are interested in the J.E.E.P initiative and to be working with triple the number of students in comparison to our pilot year. However, in order to change perceptions, we need to make the programme scalable. That's why we will be making the programme available to teachers all over the country so they can implement it themselves, with our support.

"Research which we conducted last year¹ brought to life just how big the perception problem is that our industry is facing; for example, we found that over a third of parents don't know what an apprenticeship is and a further third see apprenticeships as a last resort for young people who fail exams.

"However, the J.E.E.P pilot proved that there is an appetite for programmes like this and that the young people involved are open to learning about new industries and alternative paths to success, other than just university."

Cate Smith, Senior Programme Manager at the Transformation Trust says: "We were delighted when ABM UK approached us and asked for us to be a part of this programme. Being the first of its kind in the UK means we can hopefully pave the way for other initiatives like this, as the end goal for the FM industry is to close the skills gap.

"We believe initiatives like this are a great way to introduce students to a new interest through fun activities and experiments. It's our job to deliver these modules in an engaging way to ensure the students leave excited about their potential future in FM!"

Tom Rice, Careers Lead at Oak Wood School commented on the first module: "The first module was a complete success with our students. It was clear from attending on the day that a lot of thought had gone into the planning of these modules. During the first session, our students carried out experiments on mould, heat and conduction, alongside theory of FM and the definition of clever. It was great to see our students so engaged in the course. They're really looking forward to module two!"

In year one, ABM UK collaborated with generous suppliers and clients who see the value in taking action. These included [Helistrat](#), [SMI – Workwear](#), [Trinity Fire & Security](#), [Edmundson Electrical](#), [Diversey](#) and [Westbury Group](#). ABM UK will be looking for further support from industry peers as the programme goes from strength to strength.

For more information on the programme, visit www.jeep-abm.org.

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Image credit: ABM UK

ABOUT ABM UK

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ABM UK's comprehensive capabilities include cleaning, security, electrical & lighting, energy solutions, facilities engineering, HVAC & mechanical, data centre cleaning, landscape & turf, and parking, provided through standalone or integrated solutions. ABM UK provides custom facility solutions in urban, suburban and rural areas to properties of all sizes — from shopping centres to commercial buildings, data centres, manufacturing plants and airports.

ABM UK will continue to grow the business organically, focusing on showing clients the benefits of integrated facility solutions, its self-delivery model and its investment in people, of which ABM UK's state-of-the-art training centre in Greenford, Middlesex is the most permanent statement of intent. ABM UK has a comprehensive apprenticeship programme, as well as a scholarship scheme that allows people who made a false start in life to learn a trade.

ABM UK is a subsidiary of ABM, a leading provider of facility solutions with revenues of approximately \$6.2 billion and over 140,000 employees in 350+ offices throughout the United States and various international locations. ABM Industries Incorporated, which operates through its subsidiaries, was founded in 1909.

For more information, please visit www.abm.co.uk