

### Work-Related Learning

The pupils at Connolly School Campus have a wide range of complex individual needs. It is not always easy to engage with the pupils within the classroom environment, therefore the school want to use industry visits to engage and inspire the pupils in areas of work that might interest them, such as automation and machinery.

They want to use industry visits to contextualise pupil learning and raise their career aspirations from an early age. They want to take the pupils out of the 'comfort zone' of school, exposing them to new environments, demonstrating the real-life world of work and expanding their networks by allowing them the opportunity to engage with industry. This ties in with: school-employer partnerships/work inspiration activity.

The staff at the school have engaged DYW West Lothian's support in embarking on a series of industry workplace visits for their pupils, scheduled throughout the academic year, the first of which took place at Paterson Arran factory.

We will continue to work with the school and industry partners to coordinate a suitable calendar of activity for the pupils.

### Work-Related Learning

This visit came about from the interests of the young people in my class who wanted to visit a factory to see some sort of mechanisation, robots, machinery etc. Due to the efforts of DYW West Lothian and Paterson Arran themselves, the visit was an astounding success. The class were completely engaged as they were given a tour of the workplace. They answered appropriate questions about the machinery as well as the workday and some assured me it would be an environment they would like to work in. It is difficult to hold these boys' attention as they all have quite difficult individual needs but they were met well and it is something they will remember and we can refer back to for the rest of the year.

This trip definitely gave them a great introduction to what it would be like working in a factory such as this as well as an experience they would never have had otherwise.

**Barry Hughes, class teacher at Connolly School Campus**

### Contact Details

[barry.hughes1@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:barry.hughes1@westlothian.org.uk) ;  
[arlene.nicol@dyw-wl.com](mailto:arlene.nicol@dyw-wl.com)