

With image – caption

Face to Face provision being welcomed back by Mayor Ben Houchen

Construction academy welcomes Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen following coronavirus shutdown

Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, called on Learning Curve Group's Construction Academy in Middlesbrough as they begin to welcome learners back into practical classes.

The LCG Construction Academy provides young people and adults with skills that set them up for a trade career. Courses include Bricklaying, Plastering, Joinery and Painting & Decorating and offer valuable skills for both work and life.

Lockdown resulted in all of Learning Curve Group's face to face provision being paused overnight. Tutors immediately built continuous training plans to ensure learners weren't disadvantaged and could continue their studies whilst at home.

Mayor Houchen visited the academy after hearing how well LCG had adapted its delivery to the national lockdown and how quickly, effectively and safely they had been able to pick up where they left off. Houchen spoke to staff and students at the academy and even tried his hand at bricklaying (pictured).

Mayor Houchen spoke about the importance of construction skills and keeping these trades in the Tees Valley. Houchen has recently announced his plans for the former SSI steelworks site which will open up opportunities for 100s of jobs over the next 12 months and ensuring we have Tees Valley people skilled to enter those roles is extremely important.

Nicole Bewley, Director of Skills at Learning Curve Group, said: "I was honoured to welcome Ben to the Academy. We're exceptionally proud of how our academy staff have worked to get learners back into the academy, continuing their studies, safely. We're committed to helping individuals develop essential skills for the many new jobs that are coming to the region. We're determined the current situation won't hold these plans back so this is a fantastic time for individuals to get in touch"

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen said: "It was fantastic to visit Learning Curve Group's Construction Academy to see the amazing work they are doing in training our workers of the future. It was brilliant to see they have been able to resume their training safely and effectively so soon despite the impact the coronavirus is having on all of us.

"My plan for jobs to ensure Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool recovers from the impact of the virus is to create local jobs for local people, so it is vital we have organisations like Learning Curve Group giving young people the skills they need to fill these jobs. I've already announced 390 construction jobs on Teesworks over the next 12 months, and we want these filled by local businesses employing skilled local people.

"It is great that Learning Curve Group has committed to help make this happen, and thanks to their work we can make sure our region comes back stronger than ever before."

Ends.

