HOUNSLOW SPARKS INTEREST IN AIRPORT CAREERS...

Hounslow's Education Delivery Partner, Spark!, has worked with Heathrow Airport to design the Heathrow Coding Challenge. The aim of the Challenge is to encourage students to consider careers in STEM related subjects, as well as demonstrating how the curriculum is aligned to careers and skills needed at the airport. In 2017, workshops were offered to all primary schools in the five priority local authorities around the airport (including Hounslow, Ealing and Hillingdon), and 3,348 children took part across 52 schools.

The Challenge is a free half day experience for all of Year 6 which is delivered in schools. The sessions are delivered by Spark! alongside Heathrow colleagues who volunteer to support the sessions; encouraging and assisting the children and talking to them about careers at Heathrow.

Students receive an interactive presentation about Heathrow, the importance of coding and how coding is used at the airport. They have the opportunity to ask questions of the Heathrow Volunteers about their careers and roles at the airport.

Students also work in groups to complete a practical maths test calculating the quantities of different freight types that can be loaded on a plane. The highlight of the day is the coding challenge, where students create code to route four freight trolleys from a central cargo bay to aeroplanes at different terminals, drop off their loads and return, following the route and avoiding collisions. Feedback from the sessions has been really positive, both from pupils and teachers:

"
The people that actually work at Heathrow came in just to talk to us (pupil at Cippenham Primary School)

The children are still commenting on the activity, weeks after! (teacher)

I got to learn fun facts about Heathrow airport" (pupil Montpelier Primary School)

The children absolutely loved it - and so did the teachers" (teacher) "

Read more case studies at www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/STEM
London Councils 59½ Southwark Street London SE1 0AL
020 7934 9524

LONDON COUNCILS