



# THE BIG BUILD

Niblock Building Contractors joined forces with Construction Youth Trust (CYT) to deliver The Big Build at St Saviour's & St Olave's School. It comprised of nine inspirational sessions over a period of five months.

"Inspiring! Hearing the students all contribute to the presentation and seeing the pride the students felt about what they had achieved was fabulous".

**CATHERINE MAY**  
Head Teacher

## BENEFITS

- Collaborative working as a project team.
- Development of communication, organisation, presentation and decision-making skills.
- Industry experience.
- Positive negotiation skills.

"It has been a pleasure working with the students and CYT on The Big Build! It has been very rewarding for me to see their confidence grow and evolve working together as strong, powerful women. I hope they all consider careers in construction as they would be an asset".

**KATIE STALLARD**  
Business Development  
Manager

## OBJECTIVE

The target group was 12 Year 9 students, all young women. The project task was to plan, budget, pitch and negotiate the price of materials to build a beautiful, handcrafted bench for the school, culminating in a handover ceremony, scheduled for autumn 2022. These sessions were designed to have maximum impact on the student's future career aspirations whilst gaining key skills and meeting inspirational industry professionals.

## STAGES

### STAGE 1 - PLANNING & BUDGETING

A planning and budgeting workshop to understand the size and critical measurements of the bench and how to budget for the build and ceremony.

Katie Stallard, Business Development Manager, and Greg Cronin, Quantity Surveyor, worked with the students to create a budget for the build and determine the cost of materials. The students gained some experience on what it would be like to be as a surveyor!

### STAGE 2 - PITCH

The students needed to persuade their head teacher and head of year that this would be a valuable project through which they could gain skills such as teamwork, decision making and successful negotiation, all of which they could then transfer into their school life and future careers.

Volunteers assisted the "pitch" preparation, giving key pointers on how to deliver the best presentation possible and considering measured responses to the type of questions they may be asked. After a session of practicing, it was time for the big pitch, Dragons Den style!

### STAGE 3 - NEGOTIATION & PURCHASE OF MATERIALS

The group met with Chris Parratt (Branch Manager) and Lee McEvoy (Deputy Branch Manager) at Travis Perkins, Peckham. Armed with newfound confidence, passion, negotiation and communication skills, they managed to get all the materials for free!

### STAGE 4 - CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP

Now all the materials were sourced, the students completed the 2-day intensive workshop to build the bench!

### STAGE 5 - PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Unfortunately cancelled. The ceremony will be rearranged for later in the year to include representatives from CYT, Niblock, students, teachers, parents and the even the local MP! We are very much looking forward to the students presenting their beautiful bench that they are all incredibly proud of!