

MEMBER VISIT *Forging Futures*

The **Forging Futures** Campus is our pioneering skills centre based at Kirkstall Forge, a site owned and developed by CEG. The Campus provides **trade and professional apprenticeships, employability skills training courses** as well as site visits and work experience for students and local people. We are proud partners with **ICON Group, The Skill Mill and Juniper Training**. Forging Futures Campus is an **award-winning facility** and is considered to be an exemplar in delivering social value.

Our vision for the Forging Futures Campus is to help train Leeds' **future architects, bricklayers, civil engineers, joiners, plumbers and electricians** through our apprenticeships and courses with hands-on work experience and mentoring support. Forging Futures Campus showcases a pool of talent in action, which has allowed businesses to be able to visit, monitor and select their apprentices.



NEWS and UPDATES from member:

Under the Forging Futures banner, the organisation boasts some impressive programmes and credentials, including:

- **Construction Employability** courses, where over 70% of students transition into employment.
- **Real Site Skills**, which supports individuals aged 19 and over in reskilling for construction areas and securing employment.
- **Green Skills Academy**, where all participants learn key foundational principles related to a range of green skills methods and practices. These industry-led courses are major contributors to the delivery of net low carbon, energy-efficient homes, whether for new builds or retrofitting existing properties and housing stock. In delivering this education programme, the organisation employs a blended learning model that includes classroom sessions, lectures, and presentations. As they explore the future of the industry, they also incorporate the future of training by including Virtual Reality immersive modules, delivered by their partner Focus XR.

The Green Skills hub is a unique opportunity for Leeds residents to learn passive house techniques and skills for the future.

Forging Futures have joined forces with Juniper Training to provide study programme opportunities to 16–18-year-olds across Leeds - this programme is in its first year but is already being hailed a huge success, with long waitlists and excellent outcomes into industry and apprenticeships. The programme is small but growing and for the last intake of 12 there were over 100 applications for 20 places! The beauty of what Forging Futures does, is in their relationships with industry experts from across a range of disciplines that are willing and proud to provide training and teaching to young people and adults in order to develop the next generation of construction workforce for the city, with over 80% of adult learners accessing work - this is Education and Industry alignment at its best!

Ewan Metcalf, CEO of Forging Futures and ICON Group said he is optimistic for the future of construction and the future of skills and training support and funding that seems to be coming through central and regional powers. He feels positive that the West Yorkshire devolution future will continue to support construction skills and he is front & centre in being part of the future delivery and shaping the needs for Leeds and West Yorkshire.

