



The Why...

We are excited for the return of our **Young Citizens Work Experience Festival**.

Northumbrian Water once again has set itself the challenge... to bridge the gap between businesses and schools going forward, giving opportunity to and nurturing our future talent in the North East. Schools today are under huge pressure to secure valuable work experience opportunities to thousands of teens across the UK. But why should they be alone doing this? We all have a vested interest in nurturing our future workforce. Shaping our future leaders. Businesses need to step up and help. And that's just what NWG plan to do.

It's crucial for young citizens to develop universal core skills and gain career inspiration to unleash their creativity and explore future career paths. Through this festival, we aim to provide a platform where a host of employers will join us to engage and inspire. This interaction will not only offer practical work experience but also spark creativity, encourage innovation, and provide insights into various career options. By nurturing these young minds and exposing them to real-world scenarios, we aim to empower the next generation to become confident, skilled, and ambitious contributors to our communities and industries. Together, let's build a brighter future for our young citizens.

So what is this festival all about?

Running in parallel with the renowned NWG Innovation Festival, the **Young Citizens Work Experience Festival** will bring together leading partners from STEM, creative, and sustainability sectors to collaborate with local secondary schools in the North East. This **in-person-only** event provides invaluable work experience and career-based skills training, equipping young citizens with the tools they need for the world of work.

Spanning across the working week, the festival is structured as **two separate two-day experiences**, with each student attending for **two days only**. One day will focus on **interactive workshops**, where students will tackle real-world challenges and develop key workplace skills. The other will feature an exciting **competition**, where participants will design an **app, event, or website** to support a charity, putting their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test.

There is something for every student. We want our young citizens to be inspired, get hands-on, and expand their career knowledge across sectors like IT, sustainability, construction, sport, and the creative industries. Through these engaging workshops, students will build essential skills such as **Teamwork, Leadership, Creativity, Communication, Critical Thinking, Resilience, and Adaptability**—laying a strong foundation for any future career path.

Where and when...

WHEN?



YOUR GROUP WILL EITHER ATTEND MONDAY & TUESDAY OR TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY FOR A 2 DAY EXPERIENCE

WHERE?

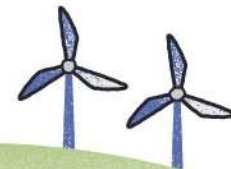
Newcastle Racecourse, Gosforth

WHO?

Year 10 to 11 students in the North East, aged between 14-16



NORTHUMBRIAN
WATER *living water*



Partner sessions

The festival will feature dynamic, partner-led sessions, each designed to equip students with practical skills that extend far beyond the classroom. Each student group will **attend three of our sessions**. These workshops offer something for everyone. Each session helps students uncover and strengthen key skills like **problem-solving**, **communication**, **collaboration**, **leadership**, and **emotional intelligence**. Delivered by **inspiring industry professionals**, these interactive experiences are designed to challenge, engage, and prepare young people for success in both education and the world of work.

Students will rotate through our partner sessions across the 2 days building skills.



Some of our partner sessions



Workshop 1 Tech Teardown: Build Your Future!

In this hands-on workshop, students dive into the inner workings of desktop computers—disassembling, identifying key components, and reassembling systems in small teams. Alongside technical skills, the session introduces students to real-world IT career paths, industry standards, and apprenticeship opportunities, offering a practical gateway into the world of technology and hardware.

Skills: Technical IT knowledge, teamwork, problem-solving, career awareness

Workshop 2 Plan Do Review

This dynamic workshop blends the excitement of basketball with strategic team challenges to enhance collaboration and critical thinking. Participants work in teams to overcome a variety of basketball-based tasks, each with its own level of difficulty and point value—promoting smart risk-reward decision-making. Guided by coaches, teams develop, execute, and refine strategies while engaging in reflective discussions that strengthen teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills.

Skills: Strategy design, risk-reward thinking, collaboration skills.



Partner sessions

Workshop 3 Don't Be Indifferent to Difference!

This interactive session uses fun, light hearted activities to explore personality types and communication styles. Participants will uncover their own preferences, learn to recognize those of others, and engage with real-world scenarios that highlight diverse ways of interacting. The session wraps up with practical insights on appreciating differences—empowering teams to communicate more effectively and collaborate with greater empathy.

Skills: Emotional intelligence, adaptability, self-awareness

Workshop 4 Getting Outside of Your Comfort Zone

Spend 60 minutes with award winning theatre, drama and creative learning company Mortal Fools for a whistle stop tour of confident communication basics during this fun, practical workshop. Our friendly facilitators will have you playing drama games and creatively working together to explore what it means to get outside of your comfort zone.

Skills: Confidence, active listening, growth mindset, teamwork

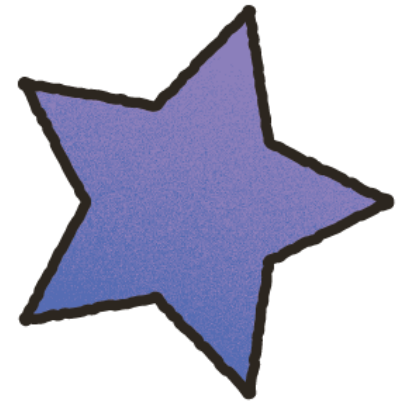


Partner sessions

Workshop 5 The Importance of Leadership

A workshop which demonstrates the importance of good leadership and management in a construction setting, where participants use Lego to deliver a construction product, firstly without clear guidance or a defined leader, then again, with clear guidance and a defined leader. After the practical we use KPIs to compare the and contrast both outcomes.

Skills: Leadership, time/project management, communication, critical reflection



Young Citizen's Work Experience Festival

What to bring:

- **Water bottle** (refill stations available)
- **Packed lunch** (no food provided)
- **Phone or device** (to scan session QR codes for CV skills tracking)
- **Pen** (for name badge and activities)
- *QR codes can be sent after the event if a student doesn't have a device on the day.*

What to wear:

- It's a festival and we will be in casual clothing, so feel free for students to come in their own casual clothes rather than uniform, but we will leave that to school discretion.

Expectations:

- Have an appropriate number of school staff to safeguard.
- Respectful behaviour from all students.
- Students always keep with party.



Young Citizen's Work Experience Festival

Transport

- We will provide your transport. Each school/institution will receive an email confirming the coach company assigned for transport and collection times. Please check your emails ahead of the event for details. Let us know if you require any additional special requirements.

Registration & Badges

- Students will arrive onsite at **9:30 AM** and will sign in each day. Every student will receive a badge, which must include their name and school for identification. Badges must be worn at all times and brought back each day.
- Each session will run with 20-25 students, meaning some groups may be split. To ensure a smooth registration process, we will ask you to please pre-arrange your student groups before arriving if this applies.

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding and supervision are the **school's responsibility**. Please ensure you have enough staff to student ratio for your group.
- Festival staff will **guide groups and provide support**, but not act as supervisors
- Each group will have an **NWL Buddy** for help and navigation
- Additional volunteers will be on hand to ensure a smooth experience



