

## SEMBCORP ENGINEERS FIND ANSWERS TO THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS



***Dave Morris, left) and Jonathan Barker chat to two Teesside High School pupils about the skills needed in engineering and the career opportunities it provides.***

How is electricity made?

Not a question you might think would pose too many problems for an experienced engineer to answer.

But when it is asked by a 7-year-old and the answer needs to be expressed in the simplest, non-technical terms to ensure understanding, finding the right words is an altogether more difficult proposition.

That was the dilemma faced by Dave Morris, Engineering Manager and Jonathan Barker, I/E Engineer when they spent a few hours talking to bright sparks from Teesside High School in Eaglescliffe at a special careers session.

The “Aspire2Be” session involved employers from all over the Tees Valley and was intended to make children think about what they enjoy doing at school and where it might lead.

Around 50 children aged 7-11 took part, going from table to table asking employers – from engineers to firemen to veterinarians - a series of questions about their roles, all of the questions designed to establish what kind of skills were needed to do a job.

“It was a great afternoon and they asked some really good questions – much better than I would have asked at the same age,” said Jonathan, 24, a former TTE apprentice currently studying for a degree in instrumentation and control engineering at Teesside University.

Laura Bryson, the Able, Gifted and Talented Coordinator at Teesside High, said: “We’re immensely grateful to Sembcorp and all the companies for giving up their time to do this – it was a great success. It’s really important to be able to relate curriculum subjects to the world around us and the children learnt so much from the experience.”

She added: “It was great to walk into the Year 3 classroom the next day and hear seven year olds saying that they want to be an engineer when they are older! We’ve also had parents telling us that their children were so excited about it when they got home.”



***Pupils quiz business people on the skills required to do their jobs***