

# Dowlow Quarry Teacher Encounter

## Background

EMCCA Careers Hub collaborated with Breedon Group and the University of Derby to provide an opportunity for teachers to engage directly with leading Buxton employers to learn about the different career pathways relevant to their subjects, and to observe how their subject is applied practically in the minerals industry.



## Objectives

- Upskill teachers to embed career-related learning across all subjects and year groups.
- Showcase modern apprenticeship routes and diverse roles at Breedon Group.
- Challenge stereotypes and ignite student aspiration in STEM and vocational careers.

## Key activities

### 1. Apprenticeship Insights

- Presentation by Breedon's apprenticeship manager and four current apprentices.
- Coverage: apprenticeship structures, types, entry requirements, recruitment.

### 2. Quarry and Office Tour

- Site visit to Dowlow Quarry and offices.
- Meetings with quarry operatives, maintenance engineers, supervisors and managers.

### 3. Curriculum Integration Workshop (90 mins)

- Reflect on learning and Q&A with Breedon team.
- Link curriculum topics to sector-specific skills and jobs.
- Brainstorm projects and resources for classroom use.

## Next steps

Breedon have promised to keep in touch with the schools that came to the event and to support pupils who are especially interested in the industry. Everyone who attended was given resources and videos to share with their colleagues and use in their lessons. They will pass on what they learned to other teachers in their department and help improve the curriculum by adding clear career-related activities and tasks.

## Impact on teachers

### 100% now understand:

- Skills needed for student transitions.
- Range of subject-linked pathways (technical & vocational).
- How to create curriculum materials with real-world relevance.
- Confidence in guiding students on future pathways.

### Commitment to action:

- 88% will develop employer-involved classroom activities.
- 66% will launch career-related learning projects.
- 66% will integrate employability skills across teaching.
- 44% will design new lesson plans/schemes of work.