

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a pilot supported by a large academy trust
Curriculum Provision	✓	Y8 History topic about impact of the Industrial Revolution
Employer Partnerships	✓	A major local business park with multiple occupiers
Reflective Young People	✓	A motivation for creative work during lockdown
Informed Career Choices	✓	Highlighting a local site hosting multiple employers

Year 8 students find out about a local business park and research its industrial history

As part of their History studies in Year 8, students at Tamworth Enterprise College are required to:

'Examine case studies of Tamworth and analyse the impact of the Industrial Revolution. In particular: Look at images of Tamworth and identify the event within them. Study maps of the area from the two time periods. Write a letter as a factory worker to your employer. Study case studies of different key aspect of Tamworth and how industry grew in these areas.'

Birch Coppice Business Park is a 10-minute drive from the school and is home to Ocado, UPS, Euro Car Parts and other employers. The business park is owned and managed by IM Properties, based in Solihull, which has invested £350m to develop this award-winning business park. In the past, this was the site of Birch Coppice colliery, which employed around 1,500 miners, surface workers and staff and for which there is now a memorial at the entrance to the business park.

Teaching the topic started just after the Covid-19 lockdown, when students were given, *'... the choice of a written task between a letter describing working conditions during the revolution or an essay comparing the two periods. As this was the first two weeks of lockdown, students' engagement wasn't fantastic ...'*

At the same time, the business park was closed, with many staff placed on furlough. In spite of the challenges, both for the school and the business partner, examples of the students' completed work were showcased in an article published on the Birch Coppice corporate website.

Benefits for the Students

- The achievement I am most proud of:
'Developing knowledge of the industry in Tamworth and that my work has been published on a website.'
- The students found out about a major local business park, which is home to over 21 employers, including Ocado, UPS and Euro Car Parts, with 38% of employees living within five miles of the scheme.

Benefits for the School

- 'The plan looks fantastic! It lines up with all the aspects I wanted to address and clearly there are a range of historical sources we could use for the coal mine as well as modern sources for comparison.'
- 'This is absolutely wonderful news for our students and for our Academy ... I am copying our Principal and new Careers Strategic Lead for careers, into the email so they can also view the link and this wonderful achievement.'

Benefits for the Employer

- IM Properties paid respect to Birch Coppices' former uses and the community linked with that by erecting a miner's memorial in 2012 at the entrance to the business park. The curriculum project involved a year group in learning about this industrial heritage and the company's commitment to the local community.
- 'Happy to have helped and worked together on this ... Looking forward to working together in the future and hopefully, when some normality resumes, the students can visit the site.'

Modern Tamworth

IM Properties funded the colliery memorial that lists many of the names of the past workers

How Was Tamworth Affected By The Industrial Revolution?

Task one:

Birch Coppice was a business park that was purchased as a disguised colliery from UK coal in 1977. The coal factory closed in 1987 after being open for 100 year into Birch Coppic invested £350 million scheme.

Letter:

Dear sir,
I am writing to inform you how hard this job is for me. As I am not one of the higher workers here, I get treated with a lot of disrespect and I'm on rubbish money. I travel around 10 miles a day to get here, is it really worth it? It might be better for me to find a job in my village with better money. The hours I work means I spend hardly any time with my family. I'm only a young unwedded man who's only trying to look after their family. Having a job in the village could change all this. I also feel that this work is too easy and I'm not being pushed enough. I could do more.

Working with Tamworth Enterprise College

Birch Coppice Business Park has recently been the inspiration for a local school's History project. Tamworth Enterprise College is a secondary school providing education for 600 young people aged 11-16 on the south side of Tamworth. As part of a wider initiative by the Academies Enterprise Trust, the school has been looking at ways of bringing classroom learning to life, including a History project in which year 8 students were learning about how Tamworth was affected by the industrial Revolution.

The school is a 10-minute drive from the Birch Coppice Business Park and the site's industrial

Birch Coppice Business Park, which was formerly the site of a large colliery, provided the focus of research by year 8 students about the Industrial Revolution. A selection of their work was showcased on the business park's corporate website.