

News Release

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JM launches first online work experience programme

Johnson Matthey (JM), a global leader in sustainable technologies, welcomed 115 students from schools across the UK to its first online work experience programme in July. With the support of social mobility charity, Speakers for Schools, JM was able to offer the students the opportunity to learn a wide range of new skills and gain insight into how science and technology is used to make the world cleaner and healthier.

The impact of COVID-19 on students has led to education being disrupted and futures are unpredictable. A study by the Sutton Trust reveals that almost half of current undergraduates in the UK believe the pandemic has had a negative effect on their chances of finding a job, and six in ten employers in the UK have cancelled their work experience placements. While physical work placements couldn't be on offer, JM realised that virtual work placements would reach even more students than previously, as location is no longer a factor.

A diverse group of 115 students aged 14-18 participated in JM's first ever online work experience week: 'Make the world cleaner and healthier with Johnson Matthey'. Collaborating with Speakers for Schools, a social mobility charity who supports students from a range of different backgrounds, meant JM was able to work with a mix of students in terms of gender, ethnicity, life experiences and social needs.

Typically, before COVID-19 struck, JM's work placements would involve students shadowing employees. However, JM's virtual programme involved a specially curated agenda of content developed specifically for the students, offering a mix of presentations and interactive activities. Students had the chance to work as individuals and in small groups, allowing them to develop confidence in their own abilities and as a team player. Afterwards, 80% said they felt very or extremely confident in their ability to succeed in the science industry.

The week included a special session with JM's Chief Executive Robert MacLeod. Students had the rare opportunity to hear about a day in the life of a FTSE 100 Chief Exec and were able to pose their own questions for Robert to answer.

The sessions covered the following topics:

- Sustainability
- Employability skills
- The automotive industry's transition towards cleaner solutions
- Technology and industrial solutions to achieving more with fewer natural resources
- How industry can contribute to help people live longer and healthier lives
- Product life cycle analysis
- Decision making
- The role of the Chief Executive

- The social value of science
- Diversity and inclusion in JM

Director of Communications, Sally Jones, said: "COVID-19 has forced us to think creatively about many things across our business, including how we continue to help young people understand more about careers in science. JM is committed to improving access to high quality science education so it was great to work with Speakers for Schools who have developed a useful tool for students and businesses to connect virtually. The online programme allows us to reach students in areas where we don't operate and connect with students who might find it difficult to access our sites for various reasons.

Thanks to everyone within JM who helped to make this week a big success, as well as the participants who were so engaged and willing to learn. We also look forward to welcoming students back onto our sites when it's safe to do so."

JM is targeting learners at a socio-economic disadvantage, to help them identify more positively with science through improved knowledge, self-confidence, attainment and attitudes. JM now plans to run multiple online placements during 2021. Students can apply via the [Speakers for Schools 'Experience' platform: www.s4snextgen.org](http://www.s4snextgen.org).

Ends

Johnson Matthey is a global leader in science that enables a cleaner and healthier world. With over 200 years of sustained commitment to innovation and technological breakthroughs, we improve the performance, function and safety of our customers' products and in 2020 we received the London Stock Exchange's Green Economy Mark, given to companies that derive more than 50% of revenues from environmental solutions. Our science has a global impact in areas such as low emission transport, pharmaceuticals, chemical processing and making the most efficient use of the planet's natural resources. Today more than 14,000 Johnson Matthey professionals collaborate with our network of customers and partners to make a real difference to the world around us. For more information, visit www.matthey.com

Inspiring science, enhancing life

For further information, please contact

Rebecca Williams [jmp@matthey.com](mailto:jmpr@matthey.com)

020 8 2698428

