



Tideway

RECONNECTING LONDON WITH THE RIVER THAMES DELIVERING A LASTING LEGACY

ROWING TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE

One of the Tideway East team's community projects is 'Breaking Barriers' to champion Tideway's aim to reconnect London with the River Thames.

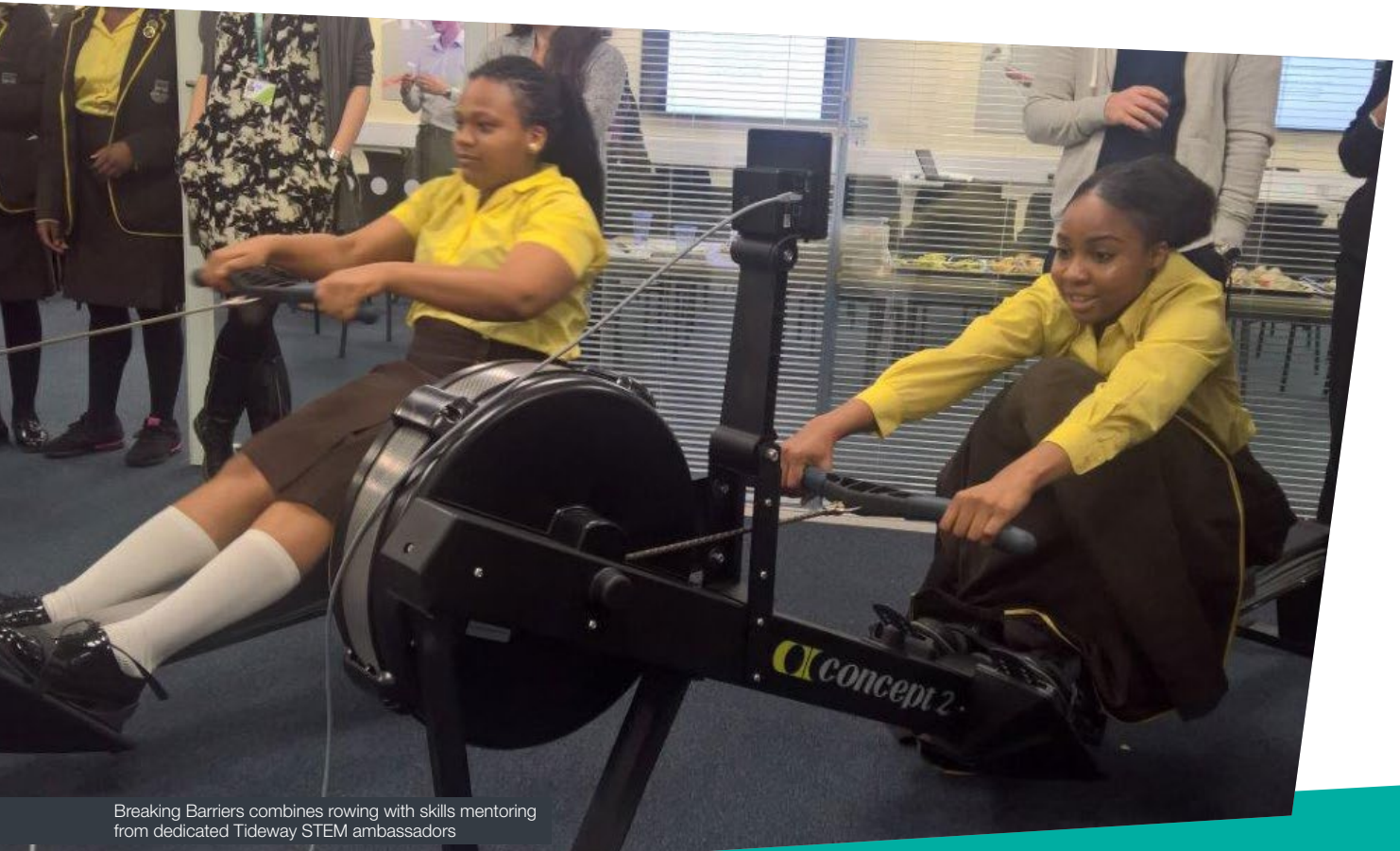
CVB, the joint venture made up of Costain, VINCI Construction Grands Projets and Bachy Soletanche to deliver the East section of the tunnel, is working with London Youth Rowing (LYR) to introduce pupils from local schools to rowing and enhance their life skills.

The youth of today is tomorrow's workforce. Setting community investment within a long-term strategy for Science, Technology, English and Maths (STEM) subjects is a measurable way to achieve national STEM targets towards developing the next generation of engineers and construction workers.

Using the river to inspire young people to achieve their career potential, the 'Breaking Barriers' programme was first launched by CVB in September 2015.

It combines rowing on the river with skills mentoring from dedicated STEM ambassadors working on the Thames Tideway Tunnel. More than 60 young disadvantaged people from five schools in East London—all in boroughs along the route of the tunnel—have taken part.

The programme broadens the aspirations of young people by providing exposure to different people and types of industries, while developing non-cognitive skills through water sports and corporate mentoring. The twin objectives are to provide positive legacies for local communities and increase their skills and employment prospects.



Breaking Barriers combines rowing with skills mentoring from dedicated Tideway STEM ambassadors



Through the business skills explored during these mentoring sessions—from goal-setting to problem-solving—the programme aims to strengthen resilience in each student. During school holidays, teams of young people are then taken rowing on the Thames by LYR, learning the values of discipline, teamwork and building their own—and each other’s—self-esteem.

The bespoke visitor centre at the Chambers Wharf site is also specially equipped with rowing machines and screens with software to allow the students to simulate racing each other. After all, as one of CVB’s lead mentors summarised: “Rowing is just like our project; we cannot do it alone. We need a team.”

The programme has attracted a diverse group of local pupils; of the 60 Year 10 and 11 students, 55 percent were female and three quarters come from a BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicities) background. The programme’s impact measurement

survey shows students’ scores consistently increasing towards their being well-rounded individuals, capable of dealing with life’s challenges. Daniel, a student from Chobham Academy recalled his experience with Breaking Barriers: “It has been both an honour and a good experience working with Tideway, giving me the confidence to run for Newham’s Young Mayor”. He joined twelve other participants who have applied for work experience and apprenticeships at Tideway following the programme.

For a programme that measures success by challenge, commitment, confidence and connecting young people with the river, the benefits for the next generation of Londoners are clear. Constructive, rewarding, and enjoyable, Breaking Barriers puts the Tideway vision into action and sets up some of London’s young people with skills for life.

For more information about Tideway

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