

## PROFESSION

# Mentor or be mentored, urges ICE

The ICE is calling on professionally qualified members to get involved in its new mentoring scheme by registering to mentor or be mentored.

The scheme, currently being piloted, aims to match experienced and knowledgeable ICE members with less experienced professionally qualified members who are looking for support, advice and guidance. It is part of the ICE's commitment to support members' CPD.

Mentors must have five years or more experience as qualified engineers, engineering technicians, incorporated engineers or chartered



**Mentoring:** Helps experienced and young engineers gain new skills

engineers. They will benefit by developing their coaching, communication and leadership skills, enhancing their CPD and building professional networks.

Those seeking to be mentored must have qualified within the last 15 years and will be matched with someone of greater experience. They will be given the opportunity to learn from an experienced civil engineer, be given impartial, objective and confidential career advice and gain a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience which can also contribute to CPD.

An online platform will help

to make the initial match, based on areas of common interest and experience. Other resources and tools will also be available to offer advice and guidance.

The ICE is also launching a further online tool to help trainees manage and complete their initial professional development before taking their Professional Review. This will be launched in January 2015 and is part of the Institution's programme to streamline the process of becoming a member.

For further information on the web, go to [tinyurl.com/okz6s8](http://tinyurl.com/okz6s8)

## PROFESSION

# Youth scheme shadows major project

Engineers, youth workers and young people in Croydon, south London have built a mini version of the Cannon Place development above Cannon Street station as part of a project to stimulate interest in civil engineering careers.

The project was developed as part of the ICE's president's apprentices scheme and was piloted in Croydon last month.

A partnership of industry and youth specialists joined forces to mentor the young people. It included apprentices from Laing O'Rourke and Mott MacDonald, and youth engagement organisation Serious About Youth. The programme, called Croydon Construct provided 22 individuals aged between 16 and 24 with skills and training at Croydon College.

During the Cannon Place project, the participants were introduced to engineering design, planning and costing practices, and building information modelling.

The group was also visited by ICE President David Balmforth and immediate past president Geoff French.

The project was the brainchild of Sakthy Selvakumaran, a 2013/14 ICE president's apprentice.

It was developed in collaboration with her Laing O'Rourke colleague Paul Matthews.



**Youth project:** At work on the model (above) of Cannon Place (below)



"It's been such a pleasure to spend time with an incredibly enthusiastic bunch of young people," said Selvakumaran.

"I think it's great for the kids to be mentored by apprentices who aren't a million miles away from them in age. Hopefully we've managed to inspire a few to think about a career in engineering."

The week included an event at the ICE award winning Cannon Place development, putting into context the group's work throughout the project. The event also offered the group the opportunity to meet engineers across a range of ages and backgrounds.

The participants will now be supported in making their next career steps and provided with work experience with Laing O'Rourke, Mott MacDonald, Elliott Wood and Arup.

Laing O'Rourke subsidiary Select Plant Hire was the event's main sponsor. Its managing director Paul McNerney said: "Croydon Construct has proved a huge success and I hope this is the first of many to come. We as an industry must constantly strive to inspire the next generation, and initiatives such as this play a huge part in showcasing what a vibrant and exciting industry we work in to the wider community and young people in particular."