

Media Release

With the construction industry under mounting pressure to address the widening skills shortage, Gleeds has announced it will be teaming up with educational charity, The Transformation Trust, on an initiative to attract more young people into the sector.

From 16th to 20th October, Gleeds staff across its 68 offices, from Manchester to Mumbai and Liverpool to Los Angeles, will aim to donate 7500 hours - the equivalent of over three working years – of their time as part of Gleeds’ annual ‘Global Challenge’ volunteering event.

In the UK, teams from across the country will be working with local secondary schools on a curriculum-aligned challenge that will culminate in a national competition. Students aged 11 to 14 will take part in a workshop managed by Gleeds staff, during which they will be asked to plan every aspect of a hypothetical construction scheme.

The best entries will then go forward into a national final, with winners selected by an exclusive panel including international sports icon, Gleeds ambassador, Sir Steve Redgrave and Gleeds Chairman, Richard Steer. The successful team will win a Q&A with Sir Steve on resilience and motivation.

Lord Andrew Stunell, the peer heading up a review of challenges faced by the construction industry post-Brexit, has lent his support to the programme, saying; “To meet the current skills shortage the UK construction sector must recruit one person every 77 seconds until the year 2021. If we are even going to come close to that we first need to engage with young people and I think this is a really fantastic way of showing off everything construction has to offer”.

Richard Steer, Chairman of Gleeds Worldwide went on to say; “Our industry is facing a huge challenge in terms of recruiting new staff and it is up to us to try and change the misinformed perceptions, encouraging the next generation to take up careers in our industry. I am confident that this year’s Global Challenge can inspire students everywhere to look at construction in a new light and I can’t wait to see their imagination and creativity put on display”.

Notes for editors

About Gleeds

—The Gleeds Global Challenge originated in 2015 when the organisation marked its 130th anniversary by setting itself a target to raise £130,000 in 5 days for charities across the world. Having almost doubled the amount of monies raised – hitting £240,000 worth of donations – the Global Challenge has become an annual employee volunteering event, intended to offer support to local communities.

—Gleeds is an international property and construction consultancy with over 130 years’ experience in the property and construction industry. With 1600 dedicated staff across six continents and 65 offices, Gleeds prides itself on being a global business that is structured to act and think locally.

—Working with clients in almost every sector, Gleeds services the entire project lifecycle and categorises its offering into the following core areas: programme and project management, commercial and contract management, property and asset management and advisory.

About The Transformation Trust

—The Transformation Trust is an education charity dedicated to opening the doors of opportunity to young people across the country. It works with some of the most challenged schools in the UK, offering their pupils opportunities and experiences that help them to develop employability

