

**Harry Wall**, a groundworker apprentice with **Galldris**, returned to his old school recently to talk about his life and his role as an apprentice in the construction industry.

Harry, a local Southwark resident, was at the **Cavendish School** after being excluded from mainstream education, due to 'being a bit of a handful'. Harry was there from Year 7 to Year 11, although he admits his 'attendance and attitude was pretty poor' and they 'put up with a lot of s\*\*\* from me'.

At Cavendish there is a team of committed and professional staff, and specialist support for those with emotional, behavioural or literacy difficulties. Often their pupils come from difficult backgrounds and their aim is to help students not only benefit from learning but to build up skills and social confidence for the many years of adult life which follows.

At the school, Harry spoke about his life changing role with Galldris and his subsequent journey to becoming a valued member of the Galldris site team, which is a testament to his drive to succeed in his new career.

Harry and representatives from **The Skills Centre in Southwark**, spoke to a group of 15, year 10 and 11 students. (Mixed of girls and boys) The aim of the visit was to inspire young people to consider a career in the construction industry and to offer them the opportunity to access free CSCS training and at the Canada Water Skills centre. Highlighting that the industry is inclusive and there are entry routes available for everyone.

There is clearly nothing more inspiring that hearing from one of your own, someone who has been in your position, about the opportunities available to young people.



Harry recently received a 'highly commended' certificate in the **Best Apprenticeship** category, at the LRCTG Awards Evening as recognition of his journey to where he is now.

**David Wake**, Galldris Apprenticeship Manager, said:

*'I don't think you will get a better example of how the construction industry has made such a change to a young persons life. The opportunities the construction industry offer to people from all walks of life and previous background should be celebrated. Here at Galldris we are proud of our work to recruit from hard to reach and under represented groups. Harry clearly had issues in the past with authority, time keeping and attendance but he has seized the opportunity at Galldris and is proving to be a real asset to us. He is a credit to himself.'*



Harry speaking about his life and journey to a packed audience at the official opening of The Skills Centre at Canada Water.

Director of Southwark Construction Skills Centre **John White MBE** said: "It's wonderfully inspiring to hear Harry's story and the efforts he has made to become a valued member of the Galldris team. The Skills Centre exists to help young, often disillusioned, people to train for a career in construction and Harry is a perfect example of someone who has taken this opportunity and worked hard to make it a success.

Through our partnerships with the likes of **Galldris**, we offer a chance for people from all walks of life to get free, first-rate training with our experienced construction professionals through our site-ready programme. We work with local communities engaging with individuals to help secure long-term jobs. I'm sure Harry will inspire other youngsters towards a career in construction and I congratulate him on his achievements. I hope we will continue to inspire and educate the younger generation on the many different exciting careers available in construction so they too, like Harry, can reap the benefits of our training and career opportunities.



Harry working on a Galldris community project at Surrey Docks Farm which he used to visit as a youngster growing up in Southwark.