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PRESS RELEASE

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Cadcoe Announces Digital Construction Training Partnership with Berkeley Modular Ltd and North Kent College

In June 2019 Berkeley Modular Ltd started to move staff into its advanced manufacturing facility in Northfleet, Kent.

As innovators within the realms of digital construction and volumetric modular housing solutions, the new company started to look for an equally innovative solution towards the end of 2018, in how to attract exceptional talent and train them, through 10 new Design Apprenticeship positions.

Berkeley Modular Managing Director Graham Cleland, has taken a totally new approach to training the new apprentices through creating a working partnership between a combination of FE colleges and training providers to ensure the 10 apprentices receive precision training tailored to the exact requirements of the role they will be carrying out.

The 4-way partnership consists of Berkeley Modular Ltd, North Kent College, Dudley College of Technology and the Construction and Design Centre of Excellence (Cadcoe).

Candidates will initially complete an intensive training programme in digital construction and design via Cadcoe and Dudley College, followed by a broad programme of further development in Digital Engineering delivered by North Kent College. Apprentices will be resident at Dudley for the initial specialist training running over a total of 4 months before returning to Berkeley Modular Ltd to complete the broader programme which runs for a further 26 months.

The successful apprentices joining the programme will be permanent, direct employees of Berkeley Modular Ltd and will receive an attractive remuneration package, continued professional career development opportunities and the chance to work on some of the most technologically advanced projects within offsite. The full package is part of Cleland's vision to transform perceptions of what a career within construction means whilst attracting the most promising digital talent to the industry:

"As a new business, employing apprentices is key to our future success. It is of utmost importance that those apprentices understand their value and the role they have to play in placing Berkeley Modular at the forefront of offsite progress and innovation. Through working closely with our training partners, we have successfully recruited a group of high-achievers with exceptional digital skills"

He goes on to add;

“the new apprentices are from a range of backgrounds, including those who possess A-Levels, construction related degrees and top performing maths students. I have a strong belief that if we are to successfully engage with the talent of tomorrow, we have to understand what their needs are, and what makes work stimulating for them. Creating strong educational and collaborative partnerships, promoting exciting opportunities and offering attractive employment packages with clear routes to career development is how we will achieve this and has proved an effective strategy for Berkeley Modular so far.”

The factory is due to start manufacturing homes from 2020. This will coincide with the apprentices completing their initial intensive training and joining the workforce from day one of production.

Cadcoe looks forward to sharing their progress over the next 12 months, and giving an in-sight into how we are working with one of the most ground-breaking offsite manufacturing companies the UK has seen in recent times.

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For further information, please contact Claire Shearwood Burton, 01322 629582 claireshearwood-burton@northkent.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

North Kent College offer an extensive range of Further Education, Higher Education, Access to Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Industry Placements and Part-time courses and Training for Businesses. We provide young people with the next step after their GCSEs as an alternative to A Levels and a route to University or a career. We also have opportunities for people who are looking at studying at an undergraduate level, or who want to change career path or up-skill for career progression.