**Questions and responses to them that may evolve from the Schools Female Event**

* Do you have to be employed to be a Modern Apprentice?

Ans: Yes a condition of being a modern apprentice requires that you are employed

* How can we obtain employment?

Ans: There are two ways. 1) BESA (Building Engineering Services Association) our main managing agent offer applying candidates to sit an aptitude test. If they successfully meet the pass mark, they will offer candidates, within their own area, to employers who have demonstrated an interest in taking on an apprentice for interviewing. 2) Contact employers within the building engineering services and facilities management sectors directly and ask to be considered for an apprenticeship.

* How much does it cost?

Ans: To the apprentice, nothing other than their time, however BESA pay the college for the 1st two years of their programme and the employers for the last two, albeit they get a proportion of that back if the apprentice completes their apprenticeship successfully.

* Do apprentices still receive a wage whilst at college?

Ans: Yes, they still receive their weekly/monthly pay as normal

* What type of work would we be involved in doing?

Ans: Initially working alongside qualified engineers on servicing and maintaining heating systems, refrigeration and air conditioning systems, gas and oil installations, electrical controls and installations, hot and cold water installations, ventilation systems. As experience is gained, there would be a greater level of responsibility to work as an individual

* Would you consider this to be a hard apprenticeship?

Ans: Yes, this apprenticeship route covers a high level of technical content and commands good study and revision levels, as well as assessments outwith college

* How long does the apprenticeship last?

Ans: It is one of the only apprenticeships where the timescale has been extended. It covers 4 years and 60 weeks of college attendance

* What further opportunities on completion, might this qualification offer?

Ans: Many of our completed apprentices have risen quickly to managerial positions, mainly due to their ability to converse comfortably with other trades in a range of technical areas. Others have their own businesses and some remain as highly skilled well paid engineers. As a short example a phone call received at the beginning of February was received from a former apprentice who finished 4 years ago. He enquiring to see if we knew of any engineers who were looking for a job as he was leaving to start, with another student from the same class, a project in Dubai. On further talking to him, another of his class group had taken up a position as engineering manager in Bermuda and a fourth has started up his own company in the Orkneys.

Beyond this many articulate onto HNC and degree programmes, plus we now have 7 ex service and maintenance apprentices who are either lecturers, Curriculum managers or Senior Curriculum managers at the college