



Aug 29, 2018 10:02 BST

West Midlands Railway sponsors The Albion Foundation

The Albion Foundation's Education Department will go in to the next academic year full steam ahead, thanks to a sponsorship deal with West Midlands Railway.

The train operator will be sponsoring Albion's charity arm, with a particular focus on education in the local community.

The partnership will include delivering rail safety workshops in local primary schools and rebranding a classroom at The Albion Foundation School. The

organisations will also be working together to provide disability awareness days for railway staff.

The Foundation's Head of Education, Anna Pincher, said: "We are really grateful for the support from West Midlands Railway.

"The support that they offer us is really important as it allows our team to continue to deliver high quality provision to local children.

"We are looking forward to the partnership with West Midlands Railway as a Foundation, and would like to thank them for specifically choosing to support our Education Department."

Brenda Lawrence, head of stations for West Midlands Railway, said: "We are really looking forward to working with The Albion Foundation. The charity has a significant impact on the lives of local children and education is such a crucial part of this. We are excited about the opportunities this partnership will bring in building important relationships between our staff and the communities we serve."

For any sponsorship queries regarding the Foundation, please contact jonathan.ward@albionfoundation.co.uk.

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

About The Albion Foundation

The Albion Foundation uses the power of football to make a difference, raise aspirations, grow their people and participants and connect West Bromwich Albion Football Club to its communities.

Through their four departments of Education, Engagement, Sport

Development and Disability, they pride themselves on inspiring to achieve and delivering the highest quality of provision to show that "Albion Cares".

In their education work, The Albion Foundation aims to engage a variety of young people; improving achievement, changing behaviour, increasing attendance, raising self-esteem and boosting confidence.

The Albion Foundation also offers various football sessions throughout the Black Country and Worcestershire area.

For more information go to www.wba.co.uk/foundation

About West Midlands Trains

West Midlands Trains operate both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services go to westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

West Midlands Trains operate 1,300 services a day, manage 150 stations and provide over 70 million passenger journeys a year. Over the course of the franchise, West Midlands Trains will be investing £1 billion into the rail network to deliver new trains, improved routes and station upgrades. This will include 400 new train carriages across the network and space for an extra 85,000 passengers into Birmingham and London at peak times.

The franchise is a joint venture between Abellio (70.1% share) and East Japan Railway Company / Mitsui & Co., Ltd (29.9% share in a 50:50 split). Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. In the UK, Abellio operate ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit www.abellio.com

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