

# STRIVING

Newsletter of the South Tynedale Railway Inclusive  
Venture for the Education of Railway Staff and Shed 52C

Winter 2019

2020 supplement

## IT'S ON!

### What is? The Gyermekvasut Day!

There was quite a lot about this in the last newsletter. In case you've forgotten, this is when, inspired by the Children's Railway in Budapest, the STRIVERS take over the STR for the day.

Everybody has been (or should have been) circulated about dates in August and we've managed to find a date which looks as though it'll work for nearly everybody.

## SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST

Please make this a

## RED LETTER DAY

I'm truly sorry if this won't be possible for any individuals, but we did ask about summer commitments and most were able to identify when they could hopefully be around.



Now we have to take this very seriously. I said that to have a role that can be considered safety critical you will have to be **competent**. Yes, you will! There won't be any STRIVERS entirely on their own in a safety critical role. A traction inspector, guards examiner or signalling assessor will be with you all day, but they won't intervene unless you make a mistake or get out of your depth or are in some way overwhelmed.

I do not expect you to make mistakes (well, not serious ones) because I know you're good and you're going to receive really good training and opportunities to practise. But you are going to have to commit to these from now on. This is our **BIG PROJECT** for 2020 and it takes **priority** over all else.

## EMPLOYABILITY, ASPIRATIONS and the CV

Gyermekvasut, here as in Hungary, is all about employability. Getting on in life isn't just about getting lots of good GCSEs. Yes, they're important, but what employers really look for are the soft skills that aren't taught in school and the evidence of aspiration and ambition that only comes from doing things like Scouts, D of E, amateur dramatics, choir, Wildlife Trusts, army cadets and, well **STRIVING!**

Perhaps you don't all realise that our YDS (Youth Development Scheme—that's what you're on!) started with employment training experience for the Y9s at Sam Kings School. We want to offer a similar opportunity to all the young people who live on Alston Moor, no matter what school they go to. Experience of working in the café or helping passengers on the platform or selling guide books on the train—this gets you the job or university place that people who just go duh in front of their smartphone all day don't get. (Remember what COHORT stands for?)

But you, the STRIVERS—you're special. You're the real railway people. Maybe some of you are by now considering a career in the rail industry—or might be inspired to do so after this year's STRIVER outing to the Newcastle Rail Academy (details coming!) And who knows what paid summer holiday work opportunities may come up on STR itself?

All STRIVERS and some Shed52C have now done the **Railwayman II** training, but you haven't all passed out yet. If you look in HOPS>Competence>Question Papers you should find a rules test waiting for you. Don't panic, it's not like school, it's real and you should enjoy pitting your wits against the rulebook. You also need to download the Railwayman II practical assessment sheet, which you'll find in HOPS>Operations>Operations Documents>Railwaymen and Shunters. This needs to be filled in for you by a guard and a signaller who can't be me because I'm your trainer.

Three of you are coming to the Shunter Training Day on 21st February. Excellent! We'll also cover some of the stuff during the COHORT day on the 18th Feb (Half Term). If the weather is OK, we will, as promised, have a 5" gauge loco out. But it's February guys. Signalboxes are warm and dry and bigger engines have weatherproof cabs!



*The spur to the new loco shed (Shed 52d!) should be finished by half term.*