



## **A VIEW of the Ford Southampton Assembly Plant**

### **A VIEW of Ford is a multimedia resource in support of the Applied GCSE for Manufacturing and the work related curriculum.**

The Ford Assembly Plant at Eastleigh, Southampton is where the Ford Transit Van is assembled for both UK and European distribution. Based in a building that once manufactured world war two fighter aircraft, the assembly line must make best use of all the available space in order to complete over 300 Transit Vans a day.

The VIEW of Ford provides the young person with an opportunity to explore the assembly plant and better understand the plant as a workplace environment with particular emphasis on the manufacture of a vehicle. The user can see at first hand the challenges of deploying an assembly line across three buildings with limited space and will appreciate the plant's operation as a business as well as an example of modern manufacturing.

The user can move to locations around the Ford site at Eastleigh, building a better understanding of the purposes of different buildings found on the site. Three large buildings divide the assembly of the Ford Transit into stages including; underbody assembly, side panel and roof assembly, pre treatment and paint, trim and final trim.

With over 200 'stopping points' around the site, each accompanied by a full 360 degree panoramic image, the user can explore each part of the plant and, if they wish, follow the production line through to completion. At some points Ford's official 'Tour Guide' provides some audio information to accompany a rotary image. Several close-ups, sequences and video extracts enable a closer look at some stages of production including robot assisted assembly, paint preparation, windscreen insertion and engine installation.

The ability to tour around the outside of the plant includes a visit to the Ford Occupational Care centre.

The VIEW of Ford enables young people to see inside a manufacturing plant. It will help them understand better the stages of assembly including, for example; sub assembly, aspects of automation, health and safety and parts management. As an introduction to a manufacturing environment the VIEW of Ford would act as a useful resource in support of the GCSE in manufacturing, perhaps as a compare and contrast activity with a real local visit. The virtual tour also offers young people a way of improving their understanding of the world of work, with an insight into a major assembly plant, not always available for visits in many locations around the UK.

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