

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term : Christmas 2017

Edition Number: 11

Happy Christmas from the World of Work team.

Once again we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in "World of Work" at the Castle School for your support and for the amazing work you do with our students. Special thanks to **Shoe Zone** and **Homebase** who have joined us recently – offering work experience to two of our students for the first time. This brings us to a total of six new organisations who have joined our work experience programme since the start of the school year in September 2017.

We would like to invite our supporting organisations to our annual celebration next March. The date is set for Friday 9 March 2018, 1pm to 2pm. More information will follow.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

The World of Work team were very proud to be named "Team of the Year" last month by the British Association for Supported Employment (BASE). BASE are a national body who promote and develop the provision of supported employment, working with different organisations to secure sustainable employment for people with disabilities. They are a strong voice in influencing government policy in this area. We are very honoured to win "Team of the Year" especially as it is the first time this has been awarded to a school. This recognition is a testament to whole school's commitment to "World of Work", and to the organisations we work with, without whom this would not be possible.



Little Quavers Music

We would like to say a special thank you this term to Anne and Liz at Little Quavers Music. They have gone to great lengths to welcome our students to their group, including making changes to their business to enable work experience, embarking on Makaton (signing) training to help with communication and even incorporating this into their music sessions. Our students love joining in with the music and helping serve drinks and clear up afterwards.

Our goal at World of Work is to provide our students with the skills and opportunities that will eventually lead them into paid employment. Therefore we are delighted that a number of our older students now hold part-time jobs outside of school. To date we have students undertaking paid work at Donnington Valley Hotel, Northcroft Leisure Centre and the Royal Oak pub in Ecchinswell.

Most recently a fourth student has just secured a seasonal role at Pizza Hut in Newbury. He has been very driven to find himself a job, and has also recently been referred to "Ways into Work" our local supported employment service. They will continue to support our student while he is at Pizza Hut, and will work with the business to develop his role there.

Well done to all of our part-time workers!



One of the highlights of the term has been a trip to Madejski Stadium to meet the team at Reading Football Club Community Trust.

They made us very welcome and people from a variety of different departments presented to us about their jobs, giving us a great insight into some of the careers available at Madejski – from security guard to team coach.

We also enjoyed a stadium tour and a trip through the players' tunnel out onto the pitch!

The Castle School will break up for Christmas on Tuesday 19 December and the last work experience day of the year will be Friday 15 December.

Work experience will start up again in the New Year from Friday 5 January 2018.



THANK YOU to everyone involved in our work experience programme



We are continually looking for new organisations to participate in our World of Work Programme through educational visits to local businesses, guest speakers and further work experience opportunities.

If you feel you could support us with this, please contact:

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