

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Spring 2019

Edition Number: 15

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter 2019. This term has proved to be one of our busiest yet, with a large number of our students being engaged in work experience and our school being awarded another 'Outstanding' Ofsted report!

We were very pleased that Ofsted referenced our World of Work programme during their inspection, saying **"The curriculum provides experiences which challenge pupils to use the skills they have developed in school. This is particularly evident with the older pupils, who are able to demonstrate confidence and aptitude in accessing work experience and successfully moving onto college and into employment."**

Where it is appropriate, "World of Work" is a part key of our students' curriculum. The programme is recognised as a best practice model of delivery.

Congratulations to Nathan, who has gained employment at Waitrose in Thatcham, following our first ever work experience placement at this store. We set up the placement last September after Nathan telling us that he was determined to get a job there. The Waitrose team welcomed Nathan wholeheartedly, and alerted us when a part-time vacancy came up, working with us to assist Nathan through the recruitment process. Nathan got the job, and is currently saving up his salary for a trip to New York!



We would like to thank everyone who attended this year's World of Work celebration, held on Friday 15 March. We welcomed our guests for a networking lunch, followed by an introduction from the team, and a short update on our programme, including presentations from some students on their own work experience. We also presented awards to the organisations who have offered exceptional support to our students over the past year: Waitrose (Thatcham), Deanwood Park Golf Club and Waitrose (Newbury). Awards were presented by MP Richard Benyon.

This year, we were delighted to have the opportunity to work with Welford Park, home of the Great British Bake-off! Every February, Welford opens its beautiful snow-drop woods and their "Snow Drop Tea Rooms" to the public, and the Castle School took part behind the scenes. We assisted in the tea-room marquee, helping set up for the day, clearing tables and crockery, cleaning trays and assisting customers. It was great experience and gave us a real insight into what it is like to work in a busy café.



Our work programme follows a three-stage model, which progresses from work experience through to Supported Internships. These are a recognised route into employment for people with learning disabilities. Once students are matched to an employer and job role, they will spend a large proportion of their week working within that organisation. It is a two-way process where the student learns the skills of the job, and the employer really gets to know the student. Ideally, at the end of an extended period, often 12-18 months, the internship should lead to paid employment. We have recently had some great successes with Post-16 students gaining paid employment following a supported internship.

Supported Internships



Further information on Supported Internships is also available from the Department for Education website at <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/news/dfe-publish-updated-guidance-on-supported-internships.htm>

If you are interested in learning more, please do not hesitate to get in touch (contact details below).



Thank you to all the amazing organisations who support "World of Work".
The Castle School will break up for Easter on Friday 5 April, returning Tuesday 23 April. There will be no work experience during the school holiday.

Work Experience Providers 2018/ 2019



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:

Louisa McClure – World of Work Coordinator – lmcclore@castle.w-berks.sch.uk Telephone: 07990 584536

Nicola Hall – World of Work Assistant – nhall@castle.w-berks.sch.uk Telephone: 07747 631392