



The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term : Christmas 2018

Edition Number: 14

We have had an amazing start to our new school year, and already the work experience programme is looking very full, with lots of students out on a variety of different placements. We try very hard to tailor our work experience to students' true areas of interest, so the mix of businesses we work with and the type of placements we have are forever changing. This year, we are very fortunate to be returning to some of our long-standing partners, such as Sainsbury's Superstore, Waitrose (Newbury) and Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa, but we have also had some great successes in finding work experience opportunities with some exciting new organisations. Since September we have started placements in five brand new World of Work locations: Argos, Tesco Extra, New Look (Parkway), Marks & Spencer (Parkway) and Waitrose (Thatcham). We would like to say a huge thank you to all of these, and to everyone involved in our programme.



A fantastic new opportunity has been opened up to us this term by West Berkshire Council. They have put together a special package of work experience to allow one of our students to find out what it is like to work at three very different council organisations: Shaw House, Newbury Library and West Berkshire Museum. Our student will attend four sessions at each location: She will join the catering team at Shaw House, will help with book finding and administration in the Library, and will assist with hospitality and general tasks at the Museum.



We are very excited to be involved in a new initiative in Newbury – The Greenham Common Control Tower Café. This iconic building is a key part of the history of Newbury and of Greenham Common, and in summer 2018 it opened its doors as a Visitor Centre, with a café, viewing gallery and small museum. The centre is run mainly by volunteers, and a small group of Castle School students has joined the team there. They help out in the café once a week, assisting customers, serving hot drinks and snacks and clearing tables.



When we set up work experience, we endeavour to find a close “job match” that fits with our students' interests and aspirations. This means that we don't work with the same employers all the time, but we wait for the right student. This term, one of our students is a keen golf enthusiast, so we are delighted to be working again with Deanwood Park Golf Club. Our student is working with the Greenkeepers, and has impressed the team so much he has now been offered an extended placement.

In 2019 we will be hosting our fifth annual World of Work celebration. We will be inviting all the wonderful organisations who support our programme to the Castle School Post-16 for an awards ceremony, networking lunch and the chance to meet some of our students and find out more about what we do in “World of Work”.

Please save the date: Friday 15 March 2019!



Thank you to all the amazing organisations who support “World of Work”. The Castle School will break up for Christmas on Thursday 20 December, returning Tuesday 8 January. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to working with you again in the New Year.

Work Experience Providers 2017/ 2018



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