

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Easter Term 2022

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This past term has been a whirlwind of activity, where we have seen the World of Work programme really take off again. The work experience schedule is suddenly looking really exciting and full of placements, with employers old and new. It has been amazing to re-connect with some of our fabulous previous partners, as well as to bring some significant new employers into the programme for the first time. One of the great things we see at school, is the "Buzz" the World of Work programme creates. As more and more students get out into the workplace, this builds the desire in others to do the same. There is nothing more satisfying than having the students actively pursuing their own aspirations, and being able to put these opportunities in place for them. Thank you, as always, to everyone who supports World of Work, and helps to make this possible.

This term we have been able to set up a fantastic placement for Amy, with a brand new employer – Boots at Newbury Retail Park. Amy has been really keen to do some work experience, and on her first day she worked on the shop floor, assisting with stock replenishment; helping to unpack a large delivery and arrange items on the shelves correctly. She was also delighted to be given a Boots staff tee-shirt to wear, so that she really looked the part. Over time, Amy will progress to assisting customers and practising stock rotation. Amy really loved her first day of work experience and cannot wait for her next visit.



Another wonderful employer who we are working with for the first time is Hobbycraft. This placement was set up for Vicky, who often visits the store as a customer as she loves crafting, and really wanted to try work experience here. Vicky is quite shy but over the past few weeks she has really grown in confidence and independence. She helps to fill shelves and set up displays, as well as scanning items, and adjusting stickers and signage for promotions. The Hobbycraft team have been very welcoming and Vicky loves working with them.

One of our long-term employers, who we are so happy to be working with again, is Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa. The hotel has supported many of our students in work experience over the years, and one of our ex-students, who attended a long-term work placement there while on the World of Work programme, continues to work in the restaurant as a paid employee over five years later. This term Hakim has started a new work placement in the spa, where he assists customers, folds towels, helps keep the changing rooms tidy, and collects food orders from the hotel kitchen. Hakim really enjoyed his first day, where he was also shown how to test the water temperature in the swimming pool. This is a great opportunity for Hakim and he can't wait to continue next term.



We are also delighted to be working again with WH Smith – another employer who has been a long-term supporter of the World of Work programme. We thought the store would be a good match for our student, Ellie, who wished try some work experience in non-food retail. On her first day Ellie was responsible for setting up “buy one, get one free” stickering on the book displays, and she managed to get the entire task done by the end of her session. On her second visit, Ellie's task was to set up the multi-coloured file displays so they form a rainbow effect. These are great tasks for Ellie as she has a good eye for making things look attractive, and she is really enjoying her work experience.

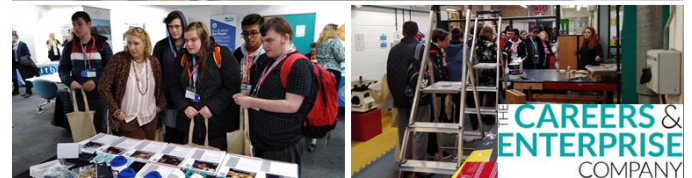
Winchcombe School have also been fantastically supportive of the World of Work programme over the years, and many of our students have enjoyed work experience assisting Mark, the caretaker, with a variety of tasks around the school buildings and wider site. Our student, Josh, really enjoys hands-on, practical tasks and is keen to learn different skills in this area, so we thought this would be a great placment for him. Following an introductory visit, where he was shown all around the school, including the workshops and equipment areas, Josh was very excited to start his work experience. On the first day Mark set him to work, cleaning the windows in some of the classrooms. Josh did a great job, and got to grips with the long-handled mop in no time! He is really looking forward to his next visit.





We always try to give our students experiences that really interest them, so we were delighted when Franklin - whose absolute favourite shop is the Entertainer - was given the opportunity to visit the store and see how things work behind the scenes. Franklin was given a tour of the shop and warehouse areas, and assisted the manager in arranging some of the products on the shelves. Franklin had a fantastic visit to the store, and learnt lots about how a toyshop works. Many thanks to Lee, the store manager, for giving Franklin such a great experience.

On 7th April we took a group of 20 students to "Into your Future", a SEND targeted careers fair at Reading College, organised by the Careers & Enterprise Company. The fair was attended by organisations including Thames Water, Fenwick, DPD, Cineworld, Berkshire Fire and Rescue and the NHS. Students had the chance to interact with prospective employers and to ask questions to make contacts, with regard to their own futures. It was also a great opportunity to find out about apprenticeships, supported employment agencies, and other pathways to work.



Thank you so much, to all the organisations who support "World of Work"

Please note that the Castle School will break up for Easter on Friday 8 April, returning on Monday 25 April, so there will be no work experience during this period.

World of Work – Recent Participants & Supporters



We are continually looking for new organisations to participate in our World of Work Programme through educational visits, virtual / face-to-face meetings, guest speakers and work experience opportunities.

We would love to hear from you, whether you have worked with us in the past or would like to get involved with World of Work for the first time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more or if you have any questions:

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