

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Christmas 2019

Edition Number: 17

Welcome to the World of Work Christmas Newsletter. It seems unbelievable that we will soon be at the end of term – and what a busy and varied term it has been! September saw the launch of our WOW+ initiative, in partnership with **West Berkshire Training Consortium**. This is an intensive work placement programme, designed to support students who we feel are on the brink of paid employment: Four of our former Post-16 students are currently attending long-term work placements for up to four days per week, with a day spent at Post-16 for work-related training and coaching. Many thanks to Sainsbury's, Tesco Extra, M&S Simply Food, Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa and to our main Castle School site for supporting these students in these work placements. **As always, huge thanks goes out to all the amazing organisations who support and participate in our World of Work programme. We wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to working with many of you in the New Year.**



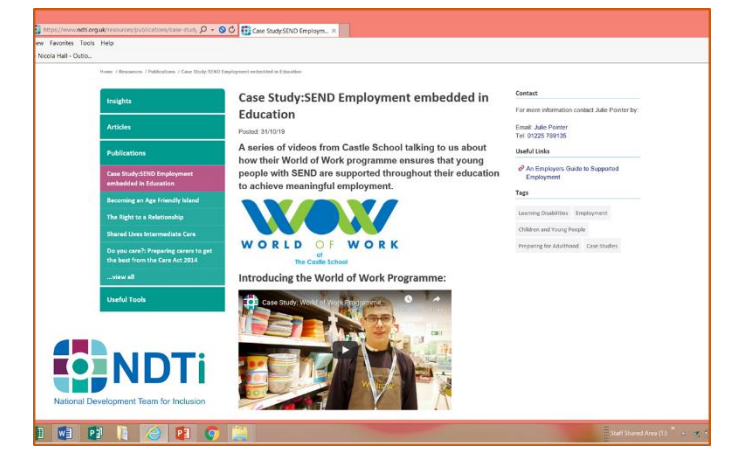
The WOW programme has really hit the ground running this term, with many students returning to ongoing placements, at Stryker, Shepherds Bakery, National Trust, Deanwood Park, Mencap, St Joseph's School, Little Quavers, and Greenham Control Tower. A number of others have started new placements with organisations who have worked with us in the past, e.g. Johnson's Cleaners, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Donnington Valley, Tesco Metro, Dingley's Promise, and Fair Close. We really value these relationships with organisations who work with us on a long-term or repeat basis, and form the back bone of what we do.





This term we are delighted to have started up three brand new placements in new organisations and departments: IJ Fencing, in Compton have taken on a student for a day a week, the Co-op in Thatcham are training another student in stock replenishment, plus a third student is learning office admin skills in West Berkshire Council SEND department.

The World of Work programme continues to grow every year, in terms of the volume and diversity of work placements we run, as well as the new WOW+ course running this year. To help manage and continue this growth we are very happy to announce that we have recently expanded our team by two. Please welcome Lisa and Laura, who join the existing WOW team, Louisa and Nicola, at The Castle School Post-16.



We are very proud to have been asked by the National Development team for Inclusion (NDTi) to feature in a series of promotional videos to showcase the benefits of work experience. The videos feature interviews with employers and Castle School staff and students, plus footage of students at work experience. They can be accessed via the NDTi website at: <https://www.ndti.org.uk> (Look under **Latest Resources** and click "**Case Study: SEND Employment embedded in Education**")



Thank you to all the amazing organisations who support "World of Work"
The Castle School will break for Christmas on Friday 20 December. We wish you a very happy festive season and look forward to working with many of you in 2020.

Current Work Experience Providers



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 Manager – lmcclore@castle.w-berks.sch.uk Telephone: 07990 584536
Nicola Hall – Employer Engagement Officer – nhall@castle.w-berks.sch.uk Telephone: 07747 631392

