

# The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Autumn Term 2021

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Since returning to school from the summer holidays, it has been wonderful to re-connect with some of our previous employers, and to see our World of Work programme starting to re-build momentum, with more students returning to the workplace. While things are feeling a little more “normal”, we are still maintaining good Covid-19 prevention practices both within school and when out at work experience. Students on placements wear face-coverings wherever possible and are well versed on washing hands and using hand-sanitiser, and understand the importance of these measures. Our intensive “WOW+” programme has a new cohort of three students who are off to a flying start building workplace skills and experience. One of these has secured paid part-time work at Premier Inn, a second has a brand new work placement at Argos and the third is set to start a new placement after half term. This external experience has a huge impact on their future job prospects. Since the start of term we have also started forging links with some new employers who we hope to work with over the coming months. As always, we would like to say a huge thank you to all organisations, new and old, who are involved with our World of Work programme.

WOW+ student, Danny, has started a new work placement at Argos where he is learning to “pick” and correctly store items in the warehouse. Danny has been very well supported by the Argos team and has already become proficient using their voice-activated cataloguing devices. He started his placement shadowing and working with different staff members, and by week three was able to work independently, collecting items for customer pick up and preparing online orders.



Sainsbury's is a long-term supporter of the World of Work programme, and we are delighted to return to the store this term. Ciara has started some work experience in the dairy section, where she is responsible for keeping the milk well-stocked. This is a fast-moving area that has to be constantly monitored, and the milk is collected in cages from the large industrial fridges. Ciara is learning lots about the different types and sizes of milk, and the importance of sell-by dates and managing stock rotation.

We are also very happy to return with a new placement in M&S Simply Food, at Newbury Retail Park. Andrew has started working with members of the M&S team, helping to keep the shelves fully stocked across all areas of the food hall. He has spent time working in the "ambient" section, replenishing shelves of sweets, crisps, groceries and Christmas goods and has been learning the importance of finding the correct shelf location and of placing products neatly with labels facing forwards. He has also spent time working in the chilled areas and "produce" section (fruit and vegetables), and learning about date rotation.



We would like to say a special thank you to Emily from Honesty Group, who joined us by Zoom earlier in the term to manage one of our World of Work lessons and to tell us all about the business. We learnt about Honesty's approach, using local, fresh and chemical-free ingredients, and all the different parts of the organisation - the bakery, cafés and pubs, hotel, cookery school and wholesale unit. Plus we discussed the different jobs and skills required in these settings. We hope to follow up with some in-person visits to some of Honesty Group's sites in the future.



**Thank you so much, to all the organisations who support "World of Work"**  
**Please note that the Castle School will break up for half term on Friday 22 October, returning on Monday 1 November, so there will be no work experience during this period.**

## World of Work Partners / Participants 2020-2021



We are continually looking for new organisations to participate in our World of Work Programme through educational visits or Zoom meetings, guest speakers and further 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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