

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Summer 2019

Edition Number: 16

As the summer term draws to a close, we can look back on what has been another fantastic year for World of Work. There have been so many highlights – thanks, as ever, to the wonderful organisations who support us and to our amazing students.

In 2018/19 we have placed students locally in 36 different locations. Over one third of these (14) have been with organisations we have never worked with before, and it is great to see these new employers joining our programme and providing new opportunities for our students.

Following work experience, three of our students have been offered opportunities for paid work, which is a fantastic result, and our ultimate aim in the long term.

We are always proud to share our work and our students' achievements with others, and this year has seen a record number of visitors coming to Post-16, to find out more about what we do. These have come from all over the UK, from overseas (Norway) and even from Australia!

Finally, exciting times are approaching in the new school year, with a number of placements already in place for September and the upcoming launch of our WOW+ intensive work placement programme, designed to support students who we feel are on the brink of paid employment.

This term we have been working with Shepherd's Bakery in Chieveley, who have provided long-term work experience for one of our students and a "taster" day for a small group. They attended an intensive training session, preparing a number of products from start to finish. It was a fantastic experience, and has given the students a great insight into this type of work (plus some delicious products to take home!)

Shepherd's Bakery



We have recently started working with the National Trust at a local site: Sandham Memorial Chapel, in Burghclere. A small group of our students have been assisting a team of National Trust volunteers in maintaining the grounds and gardens of the chapel. It has been great to see how well our students have integrated with the existing team, and they have been involved in a wide range of tasks such as pruning, weeding, digging flower beds and general tidying and maintenance of the planted areas.

We strive to work with as wide a range as possible of different types of organisations, in order to offer our students different opportunities, tailored to their interests and abilities. We are delighted to have recently started working with Stryker, a significant local employer, who have taken one of our students on a long-term placement in their warehouse and deliveries area. Stryker have provided great support, training and one-to-one mentoring, quickly enabling our student to work independently.



To complement our work experience programme we also run World of Work classroom sessions, covering work-related topics, real-life issues, careers advice and job search. When possible we like to welcome external visitors in to add their perspective and insights into careers opportunities. This term we were very lucky to be visited by the team from "HealthReach", an initiative spearheaded by Reading University to provide opportunities for school and college students to experience various job roles in the healthcare sector. It was a great, interactive session, including a presentation about health sector careers and a chance to try out a wide range of different medical equipment.



Thank you to all the amazing organisations who support "World of Work"

**The Castle School will break up for the summer on Wednesday 24 July.
We look forward to working with many of you again after our return in September.**

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:

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Snapshots: A Fantastic Year

Companies new to WOW in 2018/19...



WOW Celebration Event March 2019



And the amazing companies who continue to support us...

