



# The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Christmas Term 2021

Edition Number: 26

We would like to wish a very happy Christmas - and say a big thank you - to all the employers and organisations who are, or have been, involved in World of Work. It has been great to see the programme pick up some momentum recently, following the strangeness of the past 18 months, and we have had a number of our students start new work experience opportunities in recent weeks – with some more in the pipeline in new year. One of our WOW+ students has also just been offered paid work, as a result of his work experience, which is a fantastic outcome. These opportunities are so valuable for our students, and can have a huge impact on their lives. Thank you also to Wessex Mill in Wantage, who donated several 10kg sacks of different kinds of flour for use in class cookery sessions – which are key for growing both life skills and workplace skills. Without the support and generosity of the organisations we work with, none of this would be possible.

We are delighted to announce that following a short period of work experience, Danny has secured paid seasonal work at Argos. Danny has been taken on for the festive period and predominantly works in the warehouse area; locating and picking goods for customer collection, unpacking and storing deliveries, and keeping all areas tidy. Danny loves going to work and earning his own money, and has already attended the staff Christmas party! We hope that this may lead to further opportunities for him at Argos in the new year. Congratulations Danny!



This term we have had the opportunity to return to Greenham Control Tower Café, for work experience on Friday mornings. Two of our students attend the café with a staff member, and assist with a variety of different tasks. This includes morning set-up, serving customers with drinks and cakes, wiping tables and clearing up. They work closely with the café team and have already learnt a lot about the different tasks and processes involved. The students are also completing an online food-hygiene course to complement the work experience.



We are very grateful to Sainsbury's, who are a long-term partner of the World of Work programme and are always very supportive. Following re-starting work experience in the chilled / dairy area prior to half term, they have now offered us a second work placement in the store: Madison is working in the clothing section, where she assists the team with checking clothes for correct sizing labels, stickering items for special offers, and arranging stock on shelves and hangers. This is Madison's first external work experience opportunity and she absolutely loves it. She says it is the highlight of her week.



**Sainsbury's**



**Inclusive Recruitment- Why Hire Autistic/ Neurodiverse Candidates?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thoroughness</li> <li>Attention to detail</li> <li>Reliability</li> <li>Problem-solving abilities</li> <li>Logical thinking</li> <li>Strong communication skills</li> <li>Ability to work independently</li> <li>High level of skill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialist knowledge</li> <li>Analytical</li> <li>Spelling/grammar/typing</li> <li>High level of skill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrity</li> <li>Flexibility</li> <li>Teamwork</li> <li>Communication</li> </ul>
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Earlier in the term, members of the World of Work team attended the "BASE" conference in Brighton. BASE is the British Association for Supported Employment, and is the national umbrella group for the sector. They work on behalf of people with disabilities to break down barriers to work. Many different supported employment organisations are members of BASE and the conference includes a variety of presentations and workshops, and is a great opportunity to network and share best practice. We brought back a number of new contacts and ideas to incorporate within the World of Work programme. (<https://www.base-uk.org>)



**Thank you so much to all the organisations who support "World of Work"**  
**Please note that the Castle School will break up for Christmas on Friday 17 December, returning on Tuesday 4 January, 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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