

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Easter 2024

Edition Number: 40

This has been another very busy term for World of Work, culminating in a second fantastic day at Newbury Market. A number of classes from Post-16 and Love Lane were involved in creating a range of crafts and edible goods to sell, and worked on the market stall on the day.

We have also had a full schedule of students participating in work experience, and some new placements have recently started up. A number of exciting projects and opportunities are also in the pipeline for next term, and we look forward to sharing details of these soon. We are ever grateful to the amazing businesses who work with us, and give their time and support to our students – making these incredible experiences available to them. Thank you to everyone who is involved with World of Work. We look forward to working with many of you next term.

On 21 March we returned to Newbury Market with another pop-up stall. This time we had an Easter theme, with cookies, decorated mugs and hand-made cards, plus badges and keyrings. Everything was created in school, and students from different classes took turns to come down and man the stall during the day. This is a great opportunity for our students to practise customer service and money handling skills. It was lovely to be visited by a number of parents and employers, as well as members of the general public. The stall did really well, to the extent that we sold out of stock earlier than expected!



Where students have an interest, we try to support work experience within school. This term two of our students, who are exploring careers in childcare, have been spending time working with some of our younger children. Neah and Olivia work in our Primary School once a week, assisting the class team with a variety of activities and tasks. Both girls have got really stuck in, and have been working either in small groups, or helping specific children with one-to-one activities. The teachers have been really impressed with their contribution and attitude.

Olivia has also started a second work placement this term, at the Ugly Duckling Pottery Painting Coffee House. We have worked with Ugly Duckling on a number of occasions, and it is a lovely, supportive business, that offers a great environment for our students to learn about the workplace. Olivia has responsibility for some tasks that she performs independently, such as refilling paints and materials for each table. She has had the chance to assist behind the counter, and has been learning to make coffee and hot drinks. She also helps stock and arrange the shelves, working closely with members of the Ugly Duckling team.



This term, Amy has joined the team at the Cancer Research UK shop at Newbury Retail Park. We have worked with the shop quite a lot recently, with two regular work placements, plus a different group of our students who did some volunteering in the store, towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Amy helps to unpack and sort stock and donations, putting clothes into the right sizes, and onto hangers. She also assists with arranging the stock within the store, hanging clothes on rails and arranging books, CDs, toys etc. Amy enjoys this placement, and takes pride in doing well, working independently and also with the Cancer Research team.

As part of World of Work, we also arrange in-school activities aimed at exposing our students to different careers and workplaces. This term Oxford and Totnes Classes had a visit from the team from HealthReach – a mobile outreach programme from the University of Reading, aimed at promoting health-related courses and careers. The students had a fantastic, hands-on session, learning about different roles in the healthcare sector, and trying out a variety of different medical equipment and devices. Everyone really enjoyed practising CPR, taking blood pressure and oxygen levels and trying out a multitude of different devices on each other!



We would like to say a huge “Thank You” to everyone who is, or has been, involved with the “World of Work” programme.

We will break up for Easter on Thursday 28 March, returning on Monday 15 April. There will be no work experience during the school holidays.

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, if you would like to get involved with the World of Work programme. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more or if you have any questions:

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