

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter

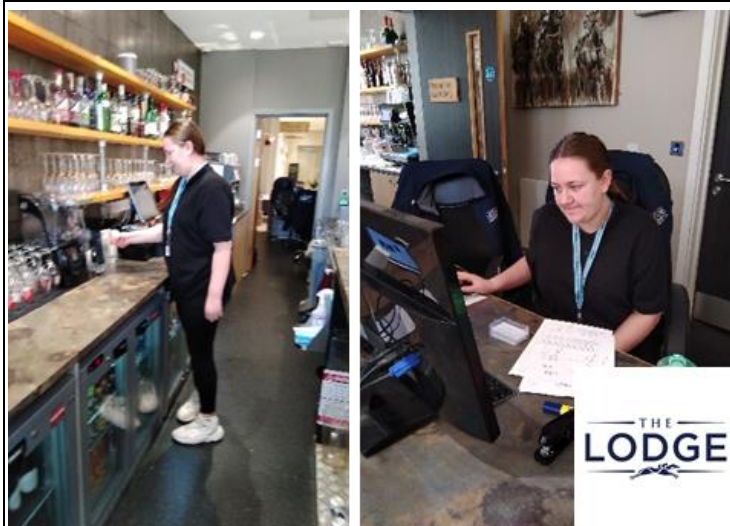


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There has been so much going on in World of Work this term, we have a super-size newsletter to share it all! As well as an ongoing, packed work experience schedule, we have launched some exciting partnerships with new organisations. This includes starting a varied programme of different opportunities with Newbury Racecourse, and a brand-new placement with recruitment solutions company, Amberjack. Special thanks go to Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa, who are incredibly supportive, and collaborated with us this term, to create an opportunity to attract new employers to World of Work. As always, thank you to all the amazing employers who are part of what we do.

In the first of our new initiatives with Newbury Racecourse, on 19 April two of our students attended their afternoon race event, to assist the stewards at the entry doors. This was a very exciting opportunity, and the students loved it. Everyone at the racecourse was incredibly welcoming, and the students were given stewards' jackets and caps to wear. They were each "buddied up" with a member of the stewarding team, and once the gates opened were responsible for scanning tickets, welcoming guests and helping with any queries. This is planned to be the first of a number of similar opportunities, and we look forward to returning.



Newbury Racecourse have also offered our student, Amy, a regular placement, working in their on-site hotel – The Lodge. Amy works on reception, where she assists with greeting guests, allocating key cards and general administration tasks. She also helps in the adjoining restaurant, preparing drinks, clearing tables and keeping the area tidy. In time, we are also planning for Amy to spend some time working with the housekeeping team, servicing the rooms. This is a fantastic opportunity, which gives Amy a great insight into the different aspects of hospitality and hotel work.

Year 13 student, Sean, has recently started work experience at Amberjack, a Newbury-based recruitment solutions company. We have worked with Amberjack previously, via our former Castle Catering business, and we are delighted to be involved with them again on a different basis. Amberjack have set up a fantastic placement for Sean, covering different aspects of office management, administration and ICT. The team have given him a great welcome, with a full employee induction, and a varied work schedule, within different teams and departments. This is an incredibly important opportunity for Sean, who is hoping to find employment or an apprenticeship in office administration in the future.



This term, we have returned to West Berkshire Food Bank with two students, Alex and Adam, who have been spending time with volunteers Anne and Lesley, learning to put the food boxes together. This is great experience. that gives students the opportunity to practise skills such as following a shopping list, selecting the correct goods, fitting everything inside the boxes, and weighing and labelling at the end. Many thanks to the Food Bank team for setting this up, and for dedicating this time to our students.

Year 11 student, Joe, has started some work experience at the Fair Close Centre. Joe had previously volunteered at a care home, and had impressed staff with his attitude and the wonderful rapport he struck with the residents, so we wished to give him further opportunities to work with elderly people. At Fair Close he helps to take orders and serve lunch to the guests. He has made an amazing start there, and is already a firm favourite with a number of the regulars.



Charlie has started his first-ever work experience at Waitrose. Charlie was very nervous on his first day, but Waitrose Partner, Chris, is brilliant at putting our students at ease, and teaching them about the work. Charlie has really settled in at Waitrose and has built up a great relationship with Chris. It has been lovely to see Charlie's confidence grow as he becomes more familiar with the role. This is a great example of how short, regular sessions in the workplace are so well suited to our students, and help them to develop.

This term, Connor has started some work experience at Little Quavers – a parents and toddlers music group. Connor assists during the music sessions – helping demonstrate actions to the songs, and give out props and instruments. After the music, Connor helps to distribute drinks and snacks and then washes up and helps put everything away. This experience provides a great mix of building Connor's confidence, in front of the group, and promoting independence and using his initiative in the kitchen. Connor has real enthusiasm for the work and wants to do well.



James has recently started a placement at Greenham Control Tower. He has shown a real aptitude for customer service, and requested some café experience. He assists the team with all aspects of setting up, including putting away deliveries, arranging furniture and putting out cake displays. He clears and wipes tables, loads the dishwasher, and will soon progress to serving customers. The team have made James very welcome and he is really enjoying the work.

In line with Sean's ambition to work in ICT and office administration, we wanted to give him a variety of experience in diverse office settings. This term he is working with the Customer Service team at West Berkshire Council. He supports the reception staff, photocopying documents, helping visitors obtain "tickets" for the correct departments, taking deliveries, and other general administration tasks. This is great experience that we hope will help him to achieve his goals.



We would particularly like to thank The Vineyard Group's Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa, who are a long-time supporter of the World of Work programme, having worked with a number of our students from work experience through to paid employment. Last month they hosted an event, to spread the word to other employers about World of Work, and share insights on employing people with additional needs. Together, we welcomed local businesses to the lovely Post Barn, and had a very productive discussion about ways of collaborating, that should lead to some exciting future opportunities. Thanks again to, HR Director Emma Jenkins and the hotel team.



Please save the date for our annual World of Work celebration at the Castle School Post-16. This is our opportunity to thank all the wonderful employers who support our programme, and recognise the achievements of our students. Friday 5 July at 1pm – further details will follow.

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 be closed for half term from Monday 27 to Friday 31 May. There will be no work experience during this time.



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:

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