

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Summer 2024

Edition Number: 42

Welcome to the final edition this year of the WOW newsletter – and what a year it has been! We are delighted to have started partnerships with a number of new organisations, including Amberjack Recruitment, Podium Place, Newbury Racecourse, John Rankin School, Cancer Research UK and Shared Lives. The cherry on our cake has been year 13 student, Sean, achieving his ambition of leaving school to start an apprenticeship, and this is a great example of how the World of Work programme can help our young people to realise their dreams. The finale of the school year was our celebration event, on Friday 5 July. We were delighted to see so many of you at Post-16, and to have the opportunity to thank you in person for the amazing work you do, and the opportunities you offer our students. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports World of Work, in whatever capacity. None of this would be possible without you.

We were delighted to welcome so many local organisations to Post-16 for our World of Work celebration. This is our opportunity to thank employers for their support, and to celebrate our students and what they can achieve. It was a really uplifting occasion, which included a buffet lunch, opportunities to mingle, and some short presentations about World of Work. We also showed a video of students talking about what work experience means to them. We presented awards to some employers who we feel have made an outstanding contribution to World of Work this year: Newbury Racecourse, The Ugly Duckling and West Berkshire Council Shared Lives.



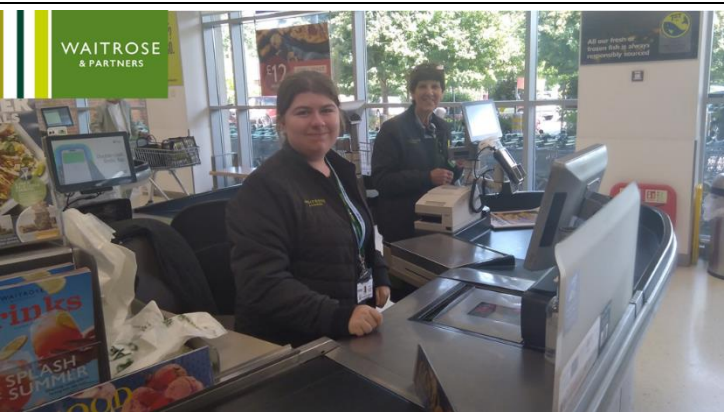
This term, we are really happy to be working with Podium Place for the first time. This is an ideal environment for our student, Sam, who is passionate about cars, and who has been assisting in the café. Sam has been helping the team to clear tables, stock the fridges and condiments, load the dishwasher and clear up inside and out. The team have been really welcoming and supportive and Sam is very excited to go to his placement every week.

We are incredibly proud of Sean, who left us earlier this term to start an apprenticeship at Stacatruc in Thatcham. Sean's ambition was to find an apprenticeship in customer service and / or administration and we are delighted at his success. Sean took part in multiple work placements to help him develop the skills and confidence he needed to work in this area, and we are very grateful to everyone who has been part of his journey: Welford Park, National Trust, Greenham Control Tower, Amberjack, John Rankin School and West Berkshire Council. His ongoing studies during the apprenticeship will be supported by West Berkshire Training Consortium.



As well as work experience, group visits to places of work are very useful way to give students a snapshot into different companies and types of job. This term we sent two groups on visits to West Berkshire Community Hospital, to get a feel for the location and an insight into some of the different roles there are in the health care sector. The groups learnt about hospital maintenance and portering, they visited some wards and the physiotherapy department, and they also saw the scanning and radiography areas. Many thanks to Ifor and Sammy from Bellrock for making this possible.

This term, Zack has started a work placement at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, one of our long-term partners. Zack is assisting the school caretaker, helping out with a variety of practical tasks around the school buildings and grounds. So far he has been painting fences, taking apart cupboards, pruning trees and tidying up. Zack is really enjoying the work experience, and the one-to-one nature of the support and instruction he receives from Michael the site manager. We are delighted to be working with St Joseph's again.



As part of our long-term relationship with Waitrose, Emily has started her first ever work placement at the store this term. The Waitrose team do an amazing job introducing students to the workplace and helping them to grow their confidence and skills. Emily is really enjoying the experience, and would like to work in a supermarket. She has made great progress, and after starting in stock replenishment, has moved on to working on the tills, which she loves.

This year has seen us start lots of exciting new initiatives with Newbury Racecourse, and many of our students have benefitted from opportunities including a long-term placement at The Lodge Hotel, work experience with the stewards on race-days and a whole-class visit and tour around the grounds, hotel, press area, nursery and stables. We have opened up the stewarding experience to different students on each occasion, and most recently Ethan and Dante, and Oliver and Adam tried out the role. Both sets of students loved the work, scanning guests' tickets on arrival and welcoming them on site.



join!



Would you or your staff be interested in joining our Governing Board as a Co-opted Governor? School Governors play an important voluntary role in school life, developing strategy, helping shape school plans, scrutinising budgets and establishing policies and procedures. We are looking for a number of Co-opted Governors who have the skills and experience to contribute to the effective governance and continued success of the school. For more information, please contact Jon Hewitt, Head Teacher or Jane Gray, Clerk to the Governors. headteacher@castle.w-berks.sch.uk clerk@castle.w-berks.sch.uk

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

The Castle School breaks up for the summer on Wednesday 24 July. We look forward to working with many of you in September



World of Work – Recent Participants & Supporters



We are continually looking for new organisations to participate in our World of Work Programme.

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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