



# The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



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We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, from the World of Work team and the staff and students at the Castle School. Thank you to everyone who supports World of Work, past and present, and for the fantastic opportunities you make available to our students. This term we have had an increasingly busy schedule of work experience, including our first-ever placement based at West Berkshire Community Hospital. A highlight of the term has been our pop up Christmas stall at Newbury Market, which is becoming a Castle School tradition, and is a wonderful way for our students to interact with the public and practise different skills.

It was great to be back at Newbury Market, for our third pop-up stall. This one had a Christmas theme, and all the different classes at Post-16 worked hard in advance, creating a range of items to sell. This is part of our Enterprise initiative, and is an opportunity for students to participate in the entire sales process. This includes deciding what they would like to make, budgeting and purchasing the raw materials, creating all kinds of different goods, setting pricing, packaging, and ultimately working in a customer facing environment, interacting with customers, taking payment and giving change. We had a fantastic day, and the students really enjoyed it.



This term, we are delighted to have started our first ever work placement with West Berkshire Community Hospital. Following a class trip to the hospital last summer, one of our students, Jack, expressed real interest in working with portering and cleaning teams. Bellrock Group, who run the hospital facilities, have set up a fantastic placement for Jack, shadowing the porters and working on a wide variety of different tasks around the site. The team have been really welcoming, and have given Jack a great insight into the work. Jack loves this work experience, and will be continuing in the new year.





As part of our collaboration with the hospital, we were also given the opportunity to run a "Table Top Sale" on site, in the run up to Christmas. Totnes and Carisbrooke classes created some lovely goods to sell, including tree decorations, hot chocolate snowmen and Christmas cards. The two classes really enjoyed running their sale, and had lots of customers, including visits from parents and passing trade at the hospital.



We are very happy to be working again with our long term partner, Donnington Valley, this term. Our student Troy has started a work placement within the Food and Beverages team, assisting with setting up rooms for conferences. Over time he will experience other areas such as maintenance, housekeeping and possibly kitchen work. This is a great opportunity for Troy, which will give an insight into the wide range of jobs available within the hospitality industry.

Ethan has started some work experience in the Shared Lives office at the Phoenix Centre. He helps out with a variety of different tasks, such as scanning and photocopying, shredding and collecting the post. He sometimes takes internal phone calls, and has an excellent telephone manner. The team have made Ethan really welcome, and he has formed a great rapport with them, and loves to join in the office banter!



Jensen is our latest student to do work experience at the Ugly Duckling Pottery Painting Coffee House. He is interested in learning about working in a café, and also likes art, so this is a great job match for him. The team at Ugly Duckling are very supportive and Jensen has settled in well after his first session. He will assist with replenishing painting and art supplies at the work stations, as well as shadowing the team in making hot drinks and serving customers.

At school, we try to facilitate internal work experience for our students whenever possible. Harvey has started some work experience as a "site assistant" at Post-16, where he helps out with a variety of tasks around the building. He wears a Castle Staff uniform and starts off with checking and filling soap and towels at all the hand washing stations. He also helps with adhoc tasks such as making batches of lunch vouchers.





Harry is our latest student to participate in some work experience at Waitrose. He works one-to-one with a member of the Waitrose team, and learns about where the stock is stored and how to arrange things correctly on the shelves. This is a very well-supported work placement, that is made available to a number of our students throughout the year, and is an important factor in their progression towards independent work.

This term, Adam has started work experience at Little Quavers Music, where he works alongside his classmate, Layna, and Anne and Liz (the business owners), in the parent and toddler sessions. The students participate in the songs, helping demonstrate the actions at the front of the room. When the music is finished, they help to prepare and serve drinks and biscuits, and then do the washing up and help to clear everything away.



Our student, Olivia, is exploring her interest in childcare as a future career, and we are trying to give her as much experience as possible in this area. In addition to her external placement at Dingley's promise, which she started in September, this term she is attending internal work experience in one of our primary classes. She is a great help to the team, and they have also requested her help for a full day of special activities prior to Christmas.

**Merry Christmas and a huge "Thank You" to all the different businesses who support World of Work.**  
**School will be closed from Thursday 19 December to Tuesday 7 January.**  
**We look forward to working with many of you in the new year.**



**We are continually looking for new organisations to participate in our World of Work Programme, and would love to hear from you, if you would like to get involved.**

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