

World of Work at the Castle School

NEWSLETTER | EDITION NUMBER: 45 | APRIL 2025



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

For those of us involved in the World of Work programme, one thing that always stands out is that nothing ever stays the same. World of Work is constantly evolving, around our students, their development, situations, ideas and aspirations, and the organisations we work with are essential to that. We have employers who come on board to support specific students, previous employers who work with us in innovative ways to meet specific requirements or objectives, and long-term employers who welcome new individuals term after term, tailoring their approach according to each student's needs. We are incredibly grateful to all of these amazing supporters, and the opportunities they provide.

We would particularly like to thank Beard Construction, who are currently carrying out work at our Love Lane site. They have made some very generous gifts to the school and the World of Work programme, and have also suggested some fantastic ways we can collaborate with them in the future.



SWINGS & SMILES

This term, we are delighted to be working with Swings & Smiles in Thatcham for the first time. Swings & Smiles is a charity offering support for disabled children and their families. They are a natural partner for us, and offer a wonderfully supportive environment for work experience. One of our year 13 students has been working with the site caretaker, and other members of the site team. So far he has assisted with maintaining sensory equipment, repairing toys, and clearing some earth in the outside play areas. This is a great placement for this student, and is really helping him to grow his confidence, as well as his practical skills.

GET INVOLVED

There are many different ways to be involved in the World of Work programme, and we are always delighted to hear from new organisations and to look at new ideas.

If you would like to find out more, please contact:

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

NEWBURY RACECOURSE

In March, we were excited to return to Newbury Racecourse to do some more work with the stewards at the entry gates on race day. This is a fantastic opportunity, and the team always make our students feel very welcome. Two of our students joined the team for the day, and were given smart stewards' jackets, scarves and baseball caps to wear. They both did brilliantly; each student was paired with one of the regular stewards, helping to scan visitors' tickets and welcome them to the racecourse. At times it was very busy, with lots of people arriving, but the girls were unfazed, and remained professional throughout. At the end of the afternoon, they were even able to view some horses in the parade ring.



SAINSBURY'S

One of our regular work experience partners is Sainsbury's, and they offer a variety of work experience opportunities around the store. This term we have a student who is very interested in clothes and fashion, who has been assisting in Tu Clothing. The team always give her a lovely welcome, and she has been involved in a number of different tasks, such as price stickering, arranging stock on hangers and helping sort out the pricing cubes. Most recently she helped dress some of the mannequins to set up a new display of children's clothes. She really enjoyed this, although she learnt that getting the clothes on and off is surprisingly difficult! She really enjoys the work and feeling like part of the team.



FALKLAND VETERINARY CLINIC

Last term, one of our students who is really interested in working with animals, had a one-off visit to Falkland Veterinary Clinic. As a result of her visit, we are delighted that she has now been offered the opportunity to attend a regular placement here. This is a fantastic experience for her, and is a first for World of Work! She works with the Pet Care Assistants, helping with tasks such as washing bedding and food bowls, labelling supplies and cleaning. In addition, she has helped to care for animals such as an injured deer and a sick hedgehog. She has also had the chance to observe some surgical procedures. She absolutely loves being at the clinic, and we are very grateful to the team for making this possible.



EASTER HOLIDAYS

The Castle School will be closed for the Easter Holidays from Friday 4 April to Tuesday 22 April.

There will be no work experience during the break.

WAITROSE

Waitrose are a long-term World of Work partner, offering fantastic one-to-one training with team member, Chris, for a different student every half-term. Our latest student has been learning about stock replenishment, and has really taken to the work, carrying out many tasks independently. He has provided real assistance to Chris, who is very impressed with him.



NATIONAL TRUST - SANDHAM

In February, we returned to the National Trust at Sandham Memorial Chapel, after the winter break. It is great to be back with the volunteer team, and our students have been busy planting sunflowers, digging and clearing around trees, and adding compost to beds to encourage growth. They have also been asked to take on a new project, where they will be monitoring a specific area for different plant species.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO IS INVOLVED IN WORLD OF WORK WITHOUT YOU, NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE



WWW.THECASTLESCHOOLNEWBURY.ORG.UK - 01635 42976