

World of Work at the Castle School

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THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING YEAR

Unbelievably, this is the final WOW newsletter of the school year. The time seems to have passed in a flash, with so many high points: We have worked with a number of brand new employers, including Bellrock / West Berks Community Hospital, Falkand Vets and Wasing Estate, and we have had some brilliant work-place visits, in some new sectors. Additionally, a huge success was one of our students gaining part-time, paid employment, following work experience at Podium Place, back in September 2024. The pace has continued to the end of the school year, culminating in our World of Work Celebration, held on Friday 4 July. This was a wonderful event, and we were delighted to welcome our employers to Post-16, to thank them for their support. This programme would not be possible without the organisations who offer our students these life-changing opportunities, and we are extremely grateful to everyone involved.



WORLD OF WORK CELEBRATION

On Friday 4 July, a large number of local businesses attended our annual celebration at Post-16. This is a very uplifting event, and is our opportunity to show appreciation to the employers who support us, and demonstrate the importance of their contribution, and the impact on our students. There was a fantastic turnout, including MP for Newbury, Lee Dillon, Cllr David Harman, Mayor of Newbury, and many of our supporting organisations. On the day, we gave special recognition to Waitrose employee Chris, for her outstanding contribution to the WOW programme. We also presented awards to The National Trust (Sandham Memorial Chapel), Dingley's Promise, Bellrock Group (West Berkshire Community Hospital), Wasing Estate and West Berkshire Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who attended.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The Castle School breaks up on Tuesday 22 July, returning Friday 5 September

PROMOTRADE

In June, we took a small group of students to a site-visit at Beenham-based promotional merchandise supplier, PromoTrade. The students were given a tour of the premises, and were shown how to use some of the machines and print some merchandise for themselves. They then helped to assemble some promotional packs, working really well together as a team to assemble, fold and package different items, to be sent out to clients.

There was also a short presentation about the company, showing the ordering process and giving us an idea of the scale of the operation.

It was a fantastic trip, giving a great insight into the business, and some of the roles involved.



APPLE PRINT

A second group of students had the opportunity to visit Apple Print & Creative, a full-service marketing agency, based in Newbury. The students had a brilliant morning, including a presentation about the business, and the chance to create their own super-hero poster, using some creative tools. It was very informative, and the team worked with each student so that everyone made their own, individual poster. Work place visits are a very valuable part of the World of Work programme, giving insights into different businesses, and helping students get the "feel" of different workplaces. This helps to grow understanding, and assists our students in making decisions about their futures.



DAVID WILSON HOMES

The third group visit this term was to David Wilson Homes, at their Lapwing Green construction site in Speen, Newbury. This was a fantastic opportunity to understand more about the construction industry, and an introduction to bricklaying. The group were kitted out with full PPE, before being given a tour of the site, to see different stages of the house build, and the different trades involved. They also had a talk about the apprenticeship and study options at Barratt Redrow. The highlight of the day was a practical bricklaying session. Many thanks to the team for such an informative and engaging session. The students loved it, and we hope to return in the future.



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:

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NEWBURY RACECOURSE

The final work experience visit of the term was an afternoon at Newbury Racecourse, assisting the stewards at the entry gates. This has become a regular World of Work fixture during the summer months, and is great experience for our students. The racecourse team are really welcoming, and the students are assigned a stewarding "buddy" who works with them to scan tickets and welcome guests to the racecourse. This is a great opportunity to practise customer service and communication skills in a real situation.



ICECREAMS!

Following our site visit to PromoTrade, and their visit to our WOW celebration, the company wished to do something nice for the students. They decided to send an icecream van to school for our end of term festival at Post-16. Thank you to PromoTrade for doing such a lovely thing. It helped to make a really memorable end to the term, and was enjoyed by staff and students alike!



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



TO SEE THE IMPACT OF WORK EXPERIENCE, PLEASE WATCH OUR STUDENT VIDEOS. GO TO THE WORK EXPERIENCE SECTION AT WWW.THECASTLESCHOOLNEWBURY.ORG.UK

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-2025 -THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

