

# World of Work at the Castle School

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## HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT THE CASTLE SCHOOL

Seasons greetings from the Castle School. We wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

We are coming to the end of another exciting term in World of Work. In addition to a packed work experience schedule, we have had some really interesting visits and events, in partnership with different organisations. There are many ways to be a part of World of Work, all of them incredibly valuable to our students, which are explored in more detail later on. One of the highlights of the term was our festive market stall, in Newbury Market Place, which was a great opportunity for all of our students to get involved, and practise some new skills. As ever, thank you so much to everyone who participates in World of Work, whatever form that takes, your input and support has a huge impact, and can be life changing.



## CHRISTMAS MARKET STALL

On 27 November we held a Christmas stall in Newbury Market Place, selling crafts, gifts and Christmas goods, produced by our students. This has become an annual event for us, and is a fantastic opportunity for our students to participate in every stage of the creative and sales process. Across Post-16, classes were involved in planning and making items to sell, designing packaging, setting prices and creating labels and displays. On the day, we created a buzz in the market square, and we had lots of customers, including school families and friends and passing trade. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the public, practising customer service skills, handling money, plus packing and wrapping the purchases. We were also happy to make an healthy profit, which will be re-invested in equipment for the World of Work programme.



## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DATES

School breaks up on Thursday 18 December, returning Tuesday 6 January

## BEARD CONSTRUCTION

Members of the team from Beard came to Post-16, for a visit, to give the students a taster of different elements of working in the construction industry.

They set up a carousel of activities at school, including a plumbing simulation, bricklaying skills (using Lego), PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), and an industry-related Bingo game. The students were really engaged in all the different areas, and progressed around different work stations, trying out the tasks, with instruction from the Beard team.

Using the Lego bricks, they learnt about proper "bonding" when building a wall, and how to construct corners, while in the plumbing game, air-flow and plastic balls were used to represent the flow of water. We had a brilliant afternoon, and the students really enjoyed it, as well as gaining some insights into the different tasks and skills involved.



## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

We have a long-term partnership with the gardening team at Sandham Memorial Chapel (National Trust). Over the past few years, students have spent time working in the gardens with the site team and the regular volunteers, and have built up a great relationship there. This year, the team invited some of us to join them for their Remembrance Service at the chapel. Three students attended, and really appreciated the chance to experience this. This is a lovely example of how work experience can help forge bonds with the community, beyond the work itself.

## CAREERS THROUGH THE ARTS

We really enjoy having people from different careers and backgrounds come in to Post-16 to talk to our students. This term, we were visited by

Harry from "Careers through the Arts", a joint initiative between The Corn Exchange and The Watermill Theatre, which aims to educate young people about careers in this area. Harry told us about her own career, and how different jobs and experiences helped lead to her current role.

She also gave us lots of information about different types of roles that exist in the theatre, in addition to acting. For example set design, stage management, marketing etc. It was a very inspiring session and gave the students lots to think about..



## 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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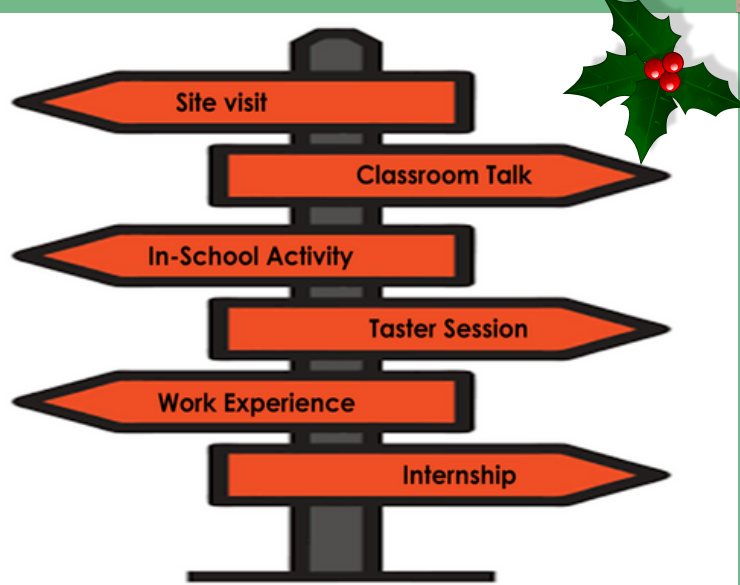


## VISIT TO JULIAN'S HAIR

One of our year 14 students is very interested in hair and beauty, so we arranged for her to spend an afternoon at Julian's Hair Salon in Newbury. She was looked after by a member of the salon team, who showed her around, including behind the scenes and in the staff areas. She explained lots about the different job roles and tasks, and showed our student how the booking system works. It was a very interesting visit, and we are hoping to return in the new year

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The overall aim of the World of Work programme is to provide opportunities that will help our students to find employment. When a work placement leads directly into a job, this is a huge cause for celebration, and has an incredible impact, not only on the life of the student, but on their family as well. This time last year, one of our year 14 students started long-term work experience at Donnington & Co, assisting in different areas of the hotel. He really impressed everyone with his work ethic, but his real ambition was to work in maintenance. We are delighted to report that, in the summer, he was offered a permanent job in the maintenance team. Donnington really value him, and are looking into training and apprenticeship opportunities. This is a fantastic, very well deserved outcome. We wish him every success.



## WORKING WITH US

We love working with different employers, and the opportunities they offer are of enormous value to our students. Visits and tasters can help them develop their knowledge of different roles, industries and careers, and help them grow their aspirations. Hands-on work provides real-world experience, and the change to discover and explore new skills. Work experience can lead to new maturity, growth of communication skills, inclusion in a team and ultimately can lead to employment. Often one type of interaction can lead to more. We are always keen to talk to new employers about working together, or existing employers about new ways to collaborate.

## BENCHMARK VISIT

One of our year 14 students has a real interest in carpentry, so we set up a workplace visit for him, to Benchmark Furniture in Kintbury. He was given a tour of the full premises and work areas, from the new wood arriving in the storage facility, through to the cutting and sanding stages, then design. He also met some of the employees and apprentices, and saw some finished products in the showroom. Thank you to the team for a very insightful tour.



# WHAT ARE REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS?



# WORD OF THE MONTH

Part of our role in World of Work, is to support employers as well as students, and provide guidance on employing people with disabilities. **A reasonable adjustment is: "A change made to remove or reduce a disadvantage someone experiences due to their disability".** This could include changes to space, processes or rules. For example training procedures, equipment, working hours or the recruitment process.

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



I would recommend work experience to other people. They make me feel very included and it makes me very happy – Year 13 student

The people are very friendly and very open, it has definitely given me an eye opener into what I might be doing in the future – Year 14 student

**TO SEE THE IMPACT  
OF WORK  
EXPERIENCE**



**PLEASE WATCH  
OUR  
STUDENT VIDEOS**

**GO TO THE WORK EXPERIENCE SECTION  
AT [www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk](http://www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk)**