

World of Work at the Castle School

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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN WORLD OF WORK

This has been a busy term, with lots happening within World of Work. Preparing students for life after school and the workplace has many different angles, and we have been employing a number of different initiatives such as external work placements, group visits, school workshops and internal work experience. The variety of opportunities available to our students is due to the amazing, ongoing support from so many businesses and organisations who give their time and energy to the World of Work programme. We are very grateful for this, and as a small thank you we would like to invite everyone to our World of Work celebration on **Friday 3 July**. More information about this will follow by email, but please do get in touch if you would like to attend or if you have any questions.



VISIT TO PROMOTRADE

Group workplace visits are a great way to introduce a number of students to a working environment together, to help them get a taste for a particular job sector. We have been working with PromoTrade, who produce promotional merchandise, since last year and this was our second visit to their offices and factory in Beenham. During the visit, our students had the opportunity to print their name on their own drink bottle, and produce a number of tote bags with the Castle School logo. They learnt how to set up a merchandise stand, to showcase all the products, and helped to pack some trolley tokens. Everyone really enjoyed it, and a couple of the students said afterwards that working at PromoTrade would be their dream job!

WORLD OF WORK CELEBRATION

Please join us for our annual celebration on
Friday 3 July, 1 to 2pm, at Post-16
We look forward to welcoming you to our school





FOOD BANK

The Food Bank is a great place for some of our students to begin their work experience journey.

They learn valuable skills such as following a shopping list, packing and weighing food boxes and marking them up for delivery. They also work with members of the Food Bank team, practising important communication, social and team work skills. We really appreciate the time the Food Bank staff give to our students. This term some different students were able to attend, and really enjoyed the opportunity. Another student was also able to return there, following a previous placement, and it has been fantastic to see her progress.

SENSORY GARDEN

Where relevant, we try to provide internal work experience for our students. For some time, our student-led School Council have wanted to create a sensory garden at our Love Lane site. A group of Post-16 students have recently formed a working party to make this dream a reality. The students started by listening to what the School Council hopes to achieve and their plans for the area. They then got to work, weeding the raised beds. The group demonstrated good communication skills and great teamwork. We are looking forward to seeing the garden develop over the coming weeks.



Internal



Internal

SCHOOL OFFICE & LIBRARY

In another internal work placement, one of our Post-16 students has started helping the team in the school office at Love Lane, the reprographics area and the school library. This student really enjoys administration and IT work, and already attends an external office-based placement, but we wanted to widen his experience and grow his independence. So far he has assisted the team with a variety of tasks, such as filing, categorising books, answering the phone and taking messages and deliveries around the school. It is great to see our students using what they have learnt and developing their skills in different directions.

NEWBURY RACECOURSE

As summer approaches, we are very happy to return to the racecourse for work experience during afternoon racing. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to assist the stewards, working with the crew at the main entry gates. They usually pair up with a member of the stewarding team, to welcome guests and scan their tickets using a hand held device. The students love this experience; the team make them very welcome, and it is a great way to experience front-line customer service, in a unique and exciting environment. We hope to attend a number of race events through the coming months.



RETURN TO WAITROSE

We are delighted to have recently returned to work experience at Waitrose. Our student is very interested in finding out more about working in retail, and this placement is ideal for her, as she is able to work one-to-one with a member of the Waitrose team who is teaching her about stock replenishment and some of the other key tasks involved in working in the store.

Waitrose is one of our valued work experience partners, who have worked with us for a long time. They offer an extremely supportive work experience environment, and many of our students have benefitted from this, growing in confidence and skills and using this a stepping stone to other things. We are very grateful to Waitrose for all they do.



CANCER RESEARCH UK

Another student, who wished to find out more about working in a shop, has recently started work experience at the Cancer Research UK superstore at Newbury Retail Park. There are lots of opportunities to be involved in a range of tasks, such as unpacking and sorting deliveries, pricing different items, arranging goods on the shop floor and assisting customers. On her first day our student took charge of re-arranging the DVDs, which she really enjoyed. This is a great environment for her to develop her confidence and practise team work and organisational skills.

NORTHCROFT LEISURE CENTRE

One of our sport-loving students has been participating in a long-term work placement the leisure centre since October. Over time he has progressed to staying on site independently and his sessions have extended from a morning to a full day a week. He operates as a regular member of the team, setting up equipment, manning reception, and responding to queries over the team walkie-talkies. The centre team think highly of him, describing him as "hardworking and polite and fantastic to work with".

This really highlights value of longer-term placements, and how they help our students to grow. We are grateful to the team for making this possible.



MAY HALF TERM

The Castle School will be closed from Friday 22 May to Monday 1st June there will be no work experience between these dates

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 – lmclure@castle.w-berks.sch.uk Telephone: 07990 584536
Nicola Hall – Employer Engagement Officer – nhall@castle.w-berks.sch.uk Telephone: 07747 631392



SHOE LACE WORKSHOP

Preparing students for employment is not only about teaching workplace skills, but also covers developing their independence, including taking responsibility for wearing the right clothing. For example, when required our students wear company uniforms to work experience. We have a selection of different uniforms at school, and the students access these, and get ready themselves. We also have a number of students participating in practical placements, requiring work boots, so we have been running a "shoelaces workshop", to ensure everyone can put on their own footwear.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT FAQs

Employer support: Often employers are unsure of the best way to support our students, and ask us for advice. We work collaboratively with all of our employers and employer support is integral to what we do. Assistance includes advice on reasonable adjustments, training modifications and student-specific learning support needs. Within supported employment, job coaches assist with the recruitment process, and can provide training across the business. Employers can also gain help through "Disability Confident" the UK government scheme designed to help organisations recruit, retain, and develop people with disabilities or long-term health conditions.



What is Employer Support?

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 ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AT: www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk

