

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Christmas 2022

Edition Number: 32

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, from the Castle School. This has been an unpredictable year for everyone, full of unexpected highs and lows. But from the point of view of the World of Work programme, it is fantastic to be back at full capacity, with large numbers of students participating regularly in diverse and interesting work placements across our region. As ever, we would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in World of Work, past and present, without whom none of what we do would be possible. We look forward to working with many of you in the New Year, and equally would love to hear from any businesses who are interested in working with us going forward. **Merry Christmas and thank you from us all!**

This term, we have been delighted to start working once again with Marks & Spencer in Northbrook Street. We first partnered with this M&S several years ago, and it is great to be back. Our student – Ethan – has started work experience in the food hall, with one-to-one support from an M&S "buddy", and they have already formed a great working relationship. Ethan has shown himself to be a very quick learner, and has been assisting with stock replenishment across ambient goods, which includes lots of Christmas produce. He is really enjoying his placement so far, and we look forward to this continuing in the New Year.



We are very happy to be working with the Scope Shop for the first time this term. Oliver visits the shop once a week, and assists the team with arranging clothes and displays, helping customers and lots of ad-hoc tasks all over the shop. He shows great enthusiasm for his work experience, and looks forward to going there every week. Oliver has established himself as a firm member of the Scope team, and has even been invited to their Christmas get-together. In recognition of his contribution, he was enormously proud to be nominated as their "Volunteer of the Month" for December.

We are always delighted to introduce new organisations to our programme, and this term we would like to say a big thank you to Falkland Primary School who have joined up with us to offer some work experience with their caretaker. Duncan, our student, likes physical and practical work and loves being outside, so he is really enjoying assisting with all kinds of tasks around the school site, such as gardening, clearing leaves, disposing of rubble. This is great experience for Duncan, as he works well in a small team, and likes to get stuck in. We look forward to continuing this work with Falkland School in 2023.



In November, Louisa and Nicola from the World of Work team attended the BASE (British Association for Supported Employment) conference in Leeds. BASE promotes the principles and delivery of high quality Supported Employment services, and works to improve the employment rates of disabled people. The conference provides a great opportunity for networking, sharing best practice and sourcing work opportunities. While we were there, we also presented a workshop on work experience and pathways to work at the Castle School, highlighting some of the amazing achievements of our students. Ex-student Luke, was awarded Highly Commended, in the BASE "David Grainger" award category, which recognises the achievements of individuals who have participated in Supported Employment. Congratulations to Luke, who has built a great career as a waiter over the past four years at Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa, following an initial period of work experience.

One of our long-term partners is Greenham Control Tower café. We often have one or two students participating in work experience in this popular venue, and the regular staff are so welcoming, and work hard to make our students feel part of the team, and help them develop their own skills and strengths. Ethan is the latest of our students to join the Control Tower team, and has made a great start. He helps to prepare hot drinks, serves customers and assists with clearing the tables and washing up. He also has the opportunity to help with food preparation and to learn to use the cash register.





Given the close proximity of Post-16 to Newbury College, we are very happy when we have the opportunity to work with our neighbours on projects such as work experience. This term, our student, Madison, has been visiting Intuition Beauty, the college's beauty-training salon, and has assisted in sessions with students, while they practise their skills. Madison has helped keep the salon tidy, assisting with cleaning equipment and folding towels. She has also participated as a "customer" for the students and has experienced treatments such as a manicure.

This term we have had some excellent external speakers in our classroom sessions. In one session, West Berkshire Training Consortium presented to us about their wide selection of training courses, and shared essential information on how to access apprenticeships. We were also visited by Alison, from NHS Healthreach, who did a fantastic session on different careers available within the NHS. She brought in lots of interactive equipment to try, so the students enjoyed taking their blood pressure, measuring heart-rates, seeing an internal VR body map and practising CPR. We are also planning some follow-on First Aid training.



We would like to say a big thank you and a very Happy Christmas to everyone who supports the "World of Work" programme

Please note, our school holiday runs from Friday 16 December to Wednesday 4 January 2023, so there will be no work experience between these dates

World of Work – Recent Participants & Supporters



We are continually looking for new organisations to participate in our World of Work Programme through educational visits, virtual / face-to-face meetings, guest speakers and work experience opportunities.

We would love to hear from you, if you would like to get involved with the World of Work programme. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more or if you have any questions:

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