

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Summer 2023

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As we approach the end of the summer term, it seems amazing that so much has happened in this school year. This year it feels like World of Work is really back, after the prolonged period of restrictions that have been in place following Covid-19. It is great to be back, and the programme has been flying high again, but the workplace has changed and we would like to acknowledge this, and the difficulties facing so many employers due to challenges around recruitment and the cost of living. We are very grateful that so many of you continue to find new ways to work with us.

We have moved forward in a multitude of different ways. In addition to re-connecting with many former partners and support organisations, we have also joined up with some brilliant businesses for the first time, who have worked with us in a variety of different ways: work experience, training sessions, class visits and "tasters". These all come together to give our students incredibly valuable experiences that cannot be replicated in the classroom, and can be life-changing.

This month has also seen the re-launch of our annual celebration, and it was fantastic to see so many of you there, and to be able to thank you in person for the work you do, and to celebrate the young people at the heart of World of Work.

Many thanks to everyone, past and present, who supports World of Work. We wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to working with many of you in September.

This term we were delighted to re-introduce our World of Work celebration, for the first time since 2019. This is our opportunity to thank all the amazing employers who work with us, and to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students. It was wonderful to be able to bring everyone together, and very inspiring to hear from some of our ex-students who are now successfully forging careers in their areas of choice. We also talked about the importance of workplace experience for all students and gave certificates of thanks to everyone who has worked with us to provide these opportunities. The event was attended by many of our partner organisations, plus representatives from West Berkshire Council, and the Mayor of Newbury. Thank you to everyone who was able to come.





We are absolutely delighted that our student, Ibrahima has been offered some part-time, paid work in the kitchens at Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa. Ibrahima has been attending a long-term work placement at the hotel, working towards his ultimate goal of being a chef. The hotel have provided great support for him, and increased his time at work over the course of the year. Next term, Ibrahima will join the catering course at Newbury college, and his work will be arranged to fit in around this. This is a brilliant outcome, and a great first step for his long-term career plans. Special thanks to head chef, Darren, plus Emma and Victoria in HR.

We have recently started working with Next in the Parkway Shopping Centre. This is a brand new placement, and we are delighted that Next have joined our programme. Our student, Andrew, does work experience in the store's online collection area. This is a very busy part of the store, and Andrew assists with sorting all the online deliveries, and storing the parcels according to the Next system, so that they can be easily found for collection. Andrew was very keen to do work experience in a warehouse / deliveries setting and is really enjoying the placement. Thank you to the team for making this happen and for making Andrew so welcome.



Ciara is the second of our students this year to do some volunteering at the Scope Shop in Newbury. The shop is a very supportive environment, and a great place for the students to learn some retail and team working skills, and practise customer service. Ciara has really enjoyed her placement and we would like to thank the Scope shop for joining the World of Work programme.

Jensen has been our latest student to participate in work experience at Waitrose. He has worked closely with Waitrose Partner, Chris, to learn about stocking shelves and arranging products correctly. Jensen was very nervous about attending work experience, but thanks to the great support he received in store, he has really enjoyed the placement and has visibly grown in confidence during his time there. Thank you to Waitrose for providing such a great environment for our students to learn and grow.





Donnington Valley are a long-standing, very supportive partner of the World of Work programme, and have assisted a number of our students through work experience and into careers at the hotel. This term they also hosted a workplace taster and visit for one of our Love Lane based classes. Oxford class received a full tour of the hotel, including all the different areas such as the spa and the restaurant, and were also given an overview of many of the different jobs and skills needed to run a hotel. At the end of the tour they were treated to cold drinks and scones with jam and cream in the hotel's outside "Hangout". Thank you to the team at Donnington Valley for such a great visit.

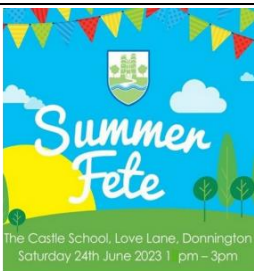
World of Work is constantly evolving, according to the changing requirements of the workplace and of our students, meaning we often work with new businesses, or in new ways. We would particularly like to thank the businesses who have worked with us for the first time this year: Next, Scope shop and Falkland Primary School offered fantastic work placements. Newbury Racecourse provided a great workplace visit and donated tickets to a summer raceday on 27 August, and Colline's Kitchen ran two brilliant classroom sessions, including a macaron making workshop.







Colline's Kitchen



Thank you to the many businesses who donated prizes for our Castle School fete, and goods and services to the Prom. The fete was a great success, plus the Prom was a fantastic and memorable event. Thank you to: Tesco, Northway Climbing Centre, Nando's, The Two Watermills, David Lloyd, Cirrus Logic, High Score, Sandford Springs Golf Club, Greek Table, The Angel - Woolhampton, Ugly Duckling, The Entertainer. For Prom, thanks to Dazzlin' Events, Walkabout and Power, and the balloon arch, disco and sweet cart kindly supplied by parents.

World of Work – Recent Participants & Supporters



The Year in Pictures – Highlights from World of Work 2022-23





We would like to say a huge “Thank You” to everyone who is, or has been, involved with the “World of Work” programme

The Castle School will be closed for the summer from Wednesday 19 July 2023, returning in September. We look forward to working with many of you in the new school year.

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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