

The Castle School World of Work Newsletter



Term: Early Summer Term 2021

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As we approach the final half-term of the academic year, it is wonderful that life is starting to feel a little more "normal", and here at World of Work we are starting to make tentative moves towards getting back out and about within our community. Within school we are still operating a "bubble" system, and we maintain safety and hygiene protocols such as wearing face coverings when we are mixing, and sanitising key areas. However we are beginning to reinstate work placements where possible and it has been fantastic to engage with some employers and see our students spreading their wings again. We are taking a careful and considered approach to placing students, starting with "taster" sessions, and ensuring everyone is fully trained on Covid-19 prevention procedures. We are very fortunate that three new employers have participated in our programme for the first time this term: Huge thanks go to Premier Inn, Nando's and Hetherton's Bakery for their involvement.

This term we have been delighted to set up two "taster" sessions for one of our students in Nando's restaurant and in Hetherton's Bakery. In World of Work, we try to tailor all work experience to match closely with personal aspirations and skills. Our student has a keen interest in catering and kitchen work, as well as previous experience in a different bakery, so these two visits were ideal to give him further insight into the industry. In Nando's he was able to assist during lunchtime, with grilling chicken orders. We hope to follow this up with a further session after half term.



Many thanks to Premier Inn (Newbury South) who have worked with us to set up a work placement for a student who would like to work in cleaning / housekeeping. Our student first attended an interview with the hotel management and from there it was agreed she would assist in the hotel restaurant and communal areas in the mornings, after breakfast service. She has been working with members of the hotel team cleaning and clearing tables, vacuuming, disinfecting high-use areas and polishing cutlery.

Congratulations to one of our WOW+ students, who has recently had a fantastic opportunity to attend a course in "Competence in Tractor Driving and Related Operations" at Berkshire College of Agriculture. This three-day course is directly related to the student's work experience and ongoing work opportunity at I J Fencing in Compton. This was an intensive course, covering all aspects of driving a tractor, including reversing, towing a trailer, using the "bucket" and hitching up additional equipment, as well as rules and regulations and tractor safety. Our student did brilliantly and passed his assessment with flying colours. Many thanks to Alex Pye, Careers and Participation Officer at West Berkshire Council, for his help in making this possible.



Alongside our work experience programme, we continue to use time in class to prepare students for work. This term we focussed on interviews, workplace behaviour, and a practical session on Manual Handling. We have also covered Safer Recruitment, to give students an idea of how companies conduct recruitment procedures, especially during the current circumstances. Additionally, we had external "Zoom" sessions with careers and mentoring experts "Pathway CTM", who ran training on getting your first job and identifying strengths.



Thank you so much, to all the organisations who support "World of Work"

Please note that the Castle School will be closed for half term from Monday 31 May until Friday 4 June, so there will be no work experience that week

World of Work Partners / Participants 2020-2021



We are continually looking for new organisations to participate in our World of Work Programme through educational visits or Zoom meetings, guest speakers and further work experience opportunities.

We would love to hear from you, whether you have worked with us in the past or if you would like to get involved with World of Work for the first time, and would be happy to discuss this and answer any questions:

Louisa McClure – World of Work Manager – lmcclore@castle.w-berks.sch.uk Telephone: 07990 584536

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

