

World of Work at the Castle School

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

This has been another very busy term for World of Work, with more than half of our Post-16 students currently out on work placements every week. As we approach the final term of the academic year, it is amazing to reflect on how our students have developed in skills and confidence, especially the year 14s, who will soon leave us. We have a student currently on his third café / hospitality related work placement, who is interested in continuing in this area, and another who is working through different areas at Donnington Valley hotel, helping him establish his future career direction. Helping our students make informed choices is at the heart of what we do. We have also recently been working with PHD researcher, Sam Dexter from UCL, who is looking into how young people with additional needs make career decisions. As ever, huge thanks go out to all the employers who support our students in this.



CITY ARTS

This term, we have a new student at City Arts café in Newbury. Our student really enjoys café work, and has had previous work experience at Greenham Control Tower, and also serving lunches at the Fair Close Centre. The City Arts team have really welcomed him on board, and he has a schedule of tasks that he performs independently to help set up the café for the day, such as putting out the signage, emptying the dishwasher, setting up the dog bowls, and putting cutlery on the tables. Once the café is open, he helps to serve the customers and to clear up. He has quickly found his feet, and loves being part of the team. He would like to continue in similar work in the future.

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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NEWBURY RACECOURSE

In May, we returned to Newbury Racecourse for our students to assist the stewards at an afternoon race meeting. This is very popular work experience for our young people, and we tend to mix up who attends on different days. On this occasion one of the students was returning for his second time, as he previously enjoyed it so much. The students dress smartly for the occasion and are given stewards' jackets to wear on arrival. The racecourse have a great system, where our students are "buddied" with one of the regular stewards, and work with them to scan tickets and welcome visitors to the racecourse. It was great to see how much the students enjoyed this and how they grew in confidence through the afternoon.



SAINSBURY'S

Our latest student to start work experience at Sainsbury's helps to collect "loose" items from the warehouse, and find space for them on the correct shelves in the store. It is great experience that helps him to understand the layout of the store, and encourages him to focus on attention to detail. He ensures the correct product goes in the right place, looking at brand, variant and size, making sure everything is neatly placed. He also enjoys collecting used cardboard boxes from the shelves and aisles and taking these out to the back to be put into the baler. He loves wearing the Sainsbury's uniform and feeling like part of the team, and really enjoys greeting and interacting with his colleagues throughout the store.



WAITROSE

At Waitrose, we are very fortunate to be able to place a new student in store every six weeks. This is a fantastic environment for our students and an ideal place for those who are trying out work experience for the first time. It is also great for those who would benefit from a very supportive placement, working one-to-one with a member of the Waitrose team. One of our year 13 students really enjoys going to the supermarket, and has had previous work experience at West Berkshire Food Bank, where she liked selecting products for the food boxes. She has recently started work experience at Waitrose, where she works with Chris to collect goods from the warehouse and put them on the shelves. and she is loving it.



MAY HALF TERM

The Castle School will be closed for half term from Friday 24 May to Monday 2 June.

There will be no work experience during the break.

DONNINGTON VALLEY

One of our year 14 students has been doing a long-term work placement at Donnington Valley Hotel and Spa for most of the academic year.

Donnington Valley is a great supporter of the World of Work programme, and consistently provides us with fantastic opportunities. Our student started his work experience in the Food & Beverages department, assisting in lots of different areas of the hotel. This term he has switched to Maintenance, and is really enjoying working with the team and learning a wide variety of skills.



WOW CELEBRATION

Our summer celebration will take place this year on Friday 4 July, 1pm to 2pm at Post-16. This is our opportunity to personally thank all the wonderful employers who work with us, and to celebrate our students' achievements. Please contact Nicola or Louisa if you would like to attend.

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



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