



16th October 2017

Year 12 Career Experience

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you may be aware, meaningful career experience is a Government requirement of all students in sixth form. Three weeks ago, we introduced the programme to students so that they have a significant length of time to organise their placement.

We chose to rebrand career experience from work experience as we want students to use this opportunity to investigate and explore their future career options once they move beyond year 13.

Students are responsible for organising their own placements. There are several websites that they can use to help them find opportunities as well as contacting businesses in the local area and beyond. Students have been given a list of the websites that they can use to help.

When students find a suitable placement, they need to complete a career experience agreement form. This is to make sure that the placement is suitable and that you are also happy with their choice. A copy of this can be found on the school website.

There are a few options surrounding when students complete their career experience. They are:

- The final week of the summer term – Monday 16th – Friday 19th July 2018.
- Any school holiday time
- During students study periods or free periods (with prior agreement)
- Special circumstances - In a minority of cases, students may be able to complete career experience at other times with prior agreement.

During the launch, students were given advice on how to organise their placement.

- If students don't know what they want to do for their career experience, they should start by considering the type of environment they wish to work in – indoors, outdoors, office based, working with others.
- For more help and advice, we recommend they book an appointment with our excellent careers advisor, Amanda Fripp who is available every Wednesday.
- We strongly advise against doing their placement with their own family business so that they gain greater experience in building working relationships and having to work independently.

- Students should not complete their career experience with a current employer, for example their Saturday job for the same reasons listed above.
- Students need to be proactive in organising their placement. There is a lot of competition in the area and students need to show perseverance and resilience by making contact with several employers and by following up emails with phone calls or personal visits.

We hope that all students are able to have successful and fulfilling placements that give them a true insight to the careers they are considering and to help them develop transferable skills. Many students in the past have found that they gained a great deal of experience which helps them when applying for university, apprenticeships or future employers.

Yours faithfully,

A Elliott

Assistant Head of Sixth Form.