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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

Monday, 31 October 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and most importantly Students

We are pleased to welcome you to our Work Experience Programme.

Work Experience is an incredibly valuable programme, where students are given a wonderful opportunity to gain an insight into their chosen or potential career path, and into the world of work. The programme helps students build and develop their employability skills, gain essential first-hand experience, and stand out in their applications to 6th Forms, Colleges, Apprenticeship providers, Universities, and potential employers.

We are fully committed to supporting every student through this programme, but equally their commitment is essential. Students will be expected to contact and arrange their own placement and secure their own work experience opportunity. Students will be representing their school, so we expect the usual high standards from them all. Employers must be contacted in both a professional and respectful manner.

We work alongside Telford & Wrekin Council's, **Education Business Links Team (EBL)**, who govern whether students can go out on work experience. The EBL Team ensure businesses offer valuable placements and carry out the required Health and Safety checks ensuring a safe environment is provided to students. The team tell us whether a placement is suitable and decide whether a student can take part in this experience. Any decision made by The EBL Team will be fully supported by the school.

Students should now be thinking about, and starting to arrange, their own work experience placement to take place on **MONDAY 17 TO FRIDAY 21 JULY 2023**. They should be getting ideas, thinking about their interests and what they hope to gain out of their placement.

We understand that some students may struggle to find experience in the companies they want, so it is important to have regular updates with them and that they do not give up. Students must be encouraged to keep searching and try to gain experience in either similar fields, or look at a completely different kind of experience, as it is all part of experiencing a potential career opportunity.

To help assist with the work experience journey, we are pleased to be able to give each student access to the EBL Database. This database contains the details of many employers who have offered work experience placements in the past. You can access this database from the following link <https://dac.telford.gov.uk/workexperience/> to start the search for potential work experience placements. An introduction to this Database was given during a work experience assembly on Monday 17 October 2022; full training will be given during PSHE lessons in November 2022. Should students wish to start their work experience journey sooner, a Student Guide is attached to the same email as this document. Each student's login details are as follow:

Username: *their personal Church Stretton School email address*

Password: *STRETTON#YEAR10*

It is important that students contact employers **themselves** by either phone, letter, or email, as this is all part of their experience and builds on their communication skills. Students will usually be expected to write a letter of application and send a CV along with it. A template letter, designed for Church Stretton School students, can be found attached to the same email that this document is attached to. Don't forget that there may well

be other schools trying to arrange their work experience placements too – so remember to stand out in your application and not to leave it too late.

Students must remember to include:

- Which school they are from and the contact details
- The name of their work experience co-ordinator
- The dates of their placement
- Their name and contact details
- The reasons for their interest in their chosen company
- Anything else that will help them stand out in their application

All employers must have **Employers Liability Insurance** in place and be able to provide evidence of this. Without this insurance the EBL Team **will not** approve any business. This is to ensure the necessary insurances are in place should anything happen. It is essential your child checks with their employer that they have the relevant insurance in place covering a work experience placement **before** they submit any placements to the school for approval.

Once a placement and the insurances have been confirmed by the employer, your child will need to enter their placement details onto the EBL Database to request Approval by the EBL Team. To add details onto the database, students will need to know the following information:

- Name of Business
- Contact name
- Full postal address
- Phone number and email address
- Which department they will be working in/type of placement

It is important that placements are arranged quickly, and that we receive the information as soon as possible. The EBL Team will need to carry out a Health & Safety check well before the start of the placement – usually 3 months before the start date.

It is therefore essential that ***all placements are arranged and confirmed by the Employer no later than Monday 17 April 2023***. Your child must inform the employer of any medical conditions or any additional requirements they may need during their placement too.

We understand this can be a nervous time for your child, but we hope they are able to see the huge benefits and make the most of this rewarding opportunity. We look forward to supporting them through their work experience journey and hearing all about it.

As always, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Mr M D Lowe

Careers Co-ordinator and Mathematics Department

An Overview of The Work Experience Process

1. All students to attend a Finding your Placement and H&S Presentation delivered by the EBL Team.
2. Students (not parents!) find a suitable placement. This can be done by:
 - Searching on the EBL Database - it contains the details of many employers who have offered work experience placements in the past
 - Asking family or friends for ideas
 - Speaking to the school 'work experience co-ordinator'
 - Looking on the internet, social media, and research
 - Speaking to previous Year 10 students – where did they go?
 - Take the Buzz Quiz to see what career is best suited to you:
[Take The 'Buzz Quiz' Careers Test. What Job Could You Do? \(ucas.com\)](#)
 - Look at the National Careers Service website for ideas. Click this link:
[Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service](#)
3. Once you have arranged and confirmed your placement, making sure the employer has Employers Liability Insurance, students enter the details on the EBL Database.
4. School will approve and forward placement details to The EBL Team to carry out the H&S Checks.
5. Placement is either approved/declined by EBL.
6. Student goes on work experience.
7. Staff from school may visit/contact the company during the student's experience to ensure all is going well.
8. Student returns to school for a work experience debrief.



Frequently Asked Questions

When do I need to arrange my placement by?

The deadline for ALL placements is **MONDAY 17 APRIL 2023**.

Can I go on work experience outside the dates set?

The date set is usually when all students will be going out on work experience. Students will however only be permitted to do the work experience outside the arranged dates in exceptional circumstances and as discussed with their teacher.

Can I go abroad?

No. EBL will not allow students to go abroad due to the risks involved.

Can I go out of area?

Yes. These placements must be arranged and returned as soon as possible, as they take longer to process by the EBL Team.

Can I still go even if EBL do not approve it?

No. If EBL do not approve a placement, then neither will the school.

Is my child insured on work experience?

Yes. If EBL approve a placement, it means that there will be Employers Liability Insurance at the organisation that will cover your child's work experience placement.

Can a students work on a weekend?

Yes. As long as there is someone from the school available over the weekend to deal with any issues should they occur.