



WORK EXPERIENCE SPECIAL

WELCOME

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Term 5 & 6 has been spent preparing our Year 10s and Year 12s for a weeks work experience. Work experience is a vital part of our student's education and preparation for working life, it has been great to hear feedback from employers on how mature and confident our students are and also to hear from students and parents saying how valuable the experience has been.

As always we are keen to hear your thoughts about our careers programme and any ideas or suggestions you may have about how it could be developed.

We hope that you have a peaceful and relaxing Summer break!

Mrs Mason

Careers Advisor

masonk@thehowardschool.co.uk

MEET THE TEAM:



Mr Edwards
*Associate Deputy Headteacher
Careers Lead*



Mrs Mason
Careers Advisor

WORK EXPERIENCE

YEAR 10 - 12th-16th June
YEAR 12 - 17th-21st July

This year, both our Year 10s and Year 12s had the opportunity to take part in a work experience week, this is a vital part of our students education and prepares them for working life.

Why do Work Experience?

Spending some time with an employer, doing simple tasks, work shadowing or watching an experienced employer at work can be hugely beneficial for our students.

The reasons for doing work experience include:

- Developing transferable skills such as communication and teamwork
- Understanding how an organisation works
- Building confidence
- Enhanced opportunities for part-time and casual employment
- Provides valuable content in a CV or a UCAS statement

What if I can't find a placement that matches my career aspirations?

Any work experience, irrespective of the occupation will provide you with the opportunity to acquire transferable personal skills that will be useful for the rest of your working life.

A big thanks to all the parents, teachers and employers who supported our students in finding placements





CASE STUDY

Alman completed his work experience with In Contrast who design and make promotional displays for various retailers, below he tells us more about his week:

I went to a company called Incontrast located in Gillingham Business Park. The company is part of the STI Group located in Germany. They have many branches across Europe but they only have one in England. I wanted to do this as in my future I want to venture into graphic design which I can do if I can understand and develop my skills.

During the placement I had to create a product which I would later turn into a unit, I enjoyed the task I was given as I could be part of every part of the production, from making it in the office then it being an actual product. I was also given other small tasks to improve my photoshop skills, they involved putting an advert over a billboard in photoshop.

During my placemat everything went smoothly with no bumps but the coffee machine is really loud and can be heard from a mile away, I also didn't enjoy sitting for long periods while working in the office.

I achieved many of my targets that I had set myself such as the ability to be organised and flexible.

I liked my work experience as I was able to improve my photoshop skills and know how it is to be an employee.

I am unsure about my future career plan but the skills I have learnt in this placement that will help me in the future would be teamwork, teamwork makes things run much quicker and that is key, as at Incontrast clients give very short deadlines.

My advice to another student that may do this next year is to be ready to be doing a lot of stuff and to have some sort of knowledge in photoshop, if you get stuck you can search your problem on google and if you still don't know then ask.

incontrast
strikingly different



In Contrast said: Alman has a creative flair and is a naturally fast learner. He enthusiastically took on any work that we set him and produced a respectable body of work in the short time he spent at Incontrast. We hope his experience here was worthwhile and wish him all the best for the future.

Alman's Parents said:

He had a great time and gained real work experience.

Alman said:

I have gained the ability to work in all different environments.



EMPLOYERS COMMENTS

We had such amazing feedback from all the employers involved in work experience and are incredibly proud of all the students and the way that they portrayed themselves and the school.

ZAC WORKED VERY HARD, HE WAS POLITE AND KIND. HE WAS VERY HELPFUL, ENGAGED WELL WITH THE CHILDREN AND DID EVERYTHING WE ASKED OF HIM - WELL DONE ZAC.



TOM WORKED REALLY HARD AT CAPSTONE, IT IS OUR BUSIEST TIME OF YEAR AND TOM HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH KEEPING UP WITH US AND THE WORKLOAD. ITS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE HAVING HIM HERE.



LIAM IS A POLITE, BRIGHT AND ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG CHAP, KEEN TO APPLY HIMSELF TO A WIDE RANGE OF TASKS. THE WORLD IS HIS OYSTER AND HE IS GOING TO BE A MASSIVE SUCCESS IN LIFE.



JACK WAS A LOT OF FUN TO WORK WITH, AND FIT INTO THE TEAM - SELF-POSSESSED, SMART, FUN! VERY SKILLED AT COMMUNICATION IN WRITING AND PICKED UP IMAGE PROCESSING QUICKLY - THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING US.

IT WAS A REAL PLEASURE HAVING BEN JOIN THE TEAM THIS WEEK. WE WOULD WELCOME HIM BACK SHOULD HE CHOOSE A CAREER IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.



ITS BEEN A PLEASURE TO HAVE BEN WITH US, HE WAS ALWAYS HERE EARLY AND INTERESTED IN WHAT WAS GOING ON AND WE REALLY SAW HIS CONFIDENCE GROW.



HARLEM HAD A GREAT WORK ETHIC FROM DAY ONE, HE SHOWED GREAT INITIATIVE HELPING THE TEAM GET TASKS DONE. HE HAD A GREAT WILLINGNESS TO LEARN AND WAS ALWAYS HELPFUL AND FRIENDLY.



MILES IS A PLEASURE TO BE AROUND, I WOULD CONSIDER MILES FOR EMPLOYMENT OR APPRENTICESHIP AS HE SHOWS A REAL WILLINGNESS TO WORK AND LEARN.



HARVEY WAS AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO HAVE AND IS A CREDIT TO THE SCHOOL. HE IS VERY BRIGHT AND LIKABLE - WELL DONE HARVEY, THERE IS A JOB WAITING FOR YOU HERE.

DANIEL IS A HARD WORKER AND WE WOULD LOVE FOR HIM TO CARRY ON WORK EXPERIENCE WITH US ONCE A WEEK IF HE WISHES TO.



CASE STUDY

Calum completed his work experience with Gillingham Football Club, more about his week below:

Monday: Spent the day with the Head of Media. I researched other football clubs social media pages and inputted information on a spreadsheet. Spoke with Academy manager who showed me how he put together and arrange fixtures.

Tuesday: Set the gym up for U18 squad with the physio. Done some work in the gym, a training session and played in a game with U18 (6v6) and scored a goal. Had lunch with the team and coach Mark Moss. Healthy protein – Chicken & rice.

Wednesday: Spent time with Joe Comper (Head of Operations) & Nick Farr (Player Care Manager). Had chat and got some good advice from 1st team manager Neil Harris. Watched the cameraman and press team put together press release of a new player who got signed and had a good conversation with him about academy life.

Thursday: With the U18 coach and team today – training sessions and circuit training – worked hard, lots of running, dribbling with the ball and a game of handball.



Calum's parents said:

Calum absolutely loved his week at Gillingham FC – a wonderful experience for him.

Calum said: I found my work experience placement a worthwhile and enjoyable experience, it was interesting and has improved my communication skills and ability to work with different people.



PARENT COMMENTS

'I FELT OLIVERS WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE. HE HAS GAINED CONFIDENCE IN A WORK PLACE AND FELT HE WAS VALUED. HE HAS BEEN OFFERED SUMMER WORK AND POSSIBLE APPRENTICESHIP POST 16'

'CAMERON HAS DONE AMAZING IN HIS WORK PLACE. I SPOKE TO HIS MANAGERS AND THEY WERE ALL REALLY IMPRESSED BY HIM AND STATED HE IS THE BEST ONE THEY HAVE EVER HAD. ALSO ASKED HIM TO CONTACT THEM WHEN HE IS 16 AS THEY WOULD EMPLOY HIM'

'HARRY REALLY ENJOYED HIS WORK PLACEMENT AND FOUND THE EXPERIENCE TO GAIN HIS CONFIDENCE AND GIVE A REAL INSIGHT INTO CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPECTATIONS AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE EMPLOYER'

'HARRY DID REALLY WELL ON HIS PLACEMENT. HE ENJOYED HIMSELF AND I THINK SURPRISED HIMSELF TOO'

'OWENS CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDENCE HAS REALLY BEEN BOOSTED BY THIS WORK EXPERIENCE. HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO SHOW HIS ATTRIBUTES IN A WORK ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMENT BY THE TEACHER AND DEPUTY HEAD SHOW THIS. WE ARE REALLY PROUD OF OWEN'

'JEREMY ENJOYED HIS WORK PLACEMENT, IT WAS A GOOD INTRODUCTION TO WORKING CULTURE AND THE DISCIPLINE THAT GOES WITH WORK. HE WOULD EVEN CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING WITH THEM IN THE FUTURE'

'NOW ASHTON HAS COMPLETED HIS WORK EXPERIENCE, HE HAS A MORE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DO. HE HAS ALSO GROWN IN CONFIDENCE'

'THE WORK EXPERIENCE WAS AN EYE OPENER TO HIM FROM LEAVING THE HOUSE AND TRAVELLING TO WORK. HE NOW UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK AND WHAT IT ENTAILS. HE NEEDS TO COMMUNICATE MORE AND WORK AS A TEAM. I HOPE IN THE SUMMER HE WILL SIT DOWN AND REFLECT ON WHAT HE WANTS TO DO'

If you have any feedback on work experience, please do let me know at masonk@thehowardschool.co.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th September – Year 13 Mock Interviews
19th January – Year 11 Mock Interviews
7th February – Careers Fayre (Selected years)



Careers Fayre 2023



Yr11 Mock Interviews 2023

**2024
Year 10 Work
Experience
10th–14th June**

**2024
Year 12 Work
Experience
15th–19th July**



UNIFROG

All students will continue to have access to Unifrog over the summer and can access it at home. Its a great tool for researching various careers, exploring pathways, quizzes, MOOCs and creating a CV.

If you should need to reset your access, go to www.unifrog.org and select Reset password/Resend welcome email, use students school email address and this will generate an email with all the details to reset yourpassword.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Conor Murdoch **Graduate in Downstream Energy**



When did you leave The Howard School?

I left in 2018 after finishing my A Levels.

Did you go to the Howard School?

What are your favourite memories of School?

The Festival Day of Sports was my favourite event of the year as I used to compete in Athletics and the day I received my GCSE results was fantastic as I achieved much better grades than I'd expected.

What do you do now?

I work for Aon who are a global provider of risk management services, insurance and reinsurance brokerage, and human resource consulting and outsourcing. In my current role in Downstream Energy Broking team, I work with clients in the post-production of crude oil and natural gas activities to get their assets insured. Additionally, I also help midstream companies (those involved in the transportation and storage of crude oil and gas) to get insurance too.

How did you get to where you are today?

I have always worked hard and set myself targets. When I first began to study for my GCSE's I didn't really know what career I wanted so I worked as hard as possible in each subject as I knew this would open up opportunities for me as I grew up. As a result, I ended up getting some really good GCSE results and decided that one of the subjects I wanted to study during my A-Levels was Business Studies as I'd enjoyed the subject a lot towards the end of my GCSE's. After I left school and went university, I studied International Business which provided me with the opportunity to enter the Insurance sector.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm keen to gain some experience in the risk management and consulting side of the business so that's an area I may try and move to once I finish the graduate programme next April. Additionally, with the number of offices we have worldwide, I'm very keen to experience living and working in another country that's my aim for my mid/late twenties.

Finally, what would be your advice to students?

Set yourself goals and work hard as you'll thank yourself in the future. Finally, you can't study 24/7 so learn to take a break and have fun!

