



## Work Experience

One of your enhancement options, is the opportunity to undertake unpaid, voluntary work experience, that will enhance your prospects and inform your possible future career path. The work experience placements usually begin before the October half-term, and so it is crucial that in order to organise a relevant placement, you are pro-active from the outset of September.

The process to arrange a work experience placement takes time, it involves the college undertaking placement approval, health and safety/risk assessments, etc. Therefore, we are encouraging you to consider/research potential work experience placements now, in order to ensure that the process is streamlined and you have a better chance of undertaking a placement successfully.

In terms of work placements, you are expected to organise/arrange your own placement by making enquiries with relevant employers - communicating and networking is a vital skill that you need to develop.

The Sixth Form team are on hand to offer advice and guidance related to work experience/placements/employers and will support you with the process, but you are to be responsible for arranging and facilitating the work experience yourselves.

Work experience is a fantastic opportunity to develop your skills set, and enhance your potential in your chosen area of employment. It also shows clear commitment to the sector that you have chosen to undertake experience in - something which both universities and employers love to see, and something that would give you further talking points in the competitive stages of apprenticeship, employment, or university applications.

With the above in mind, we would now encourage you to begin considering and shortlisting potential work experience placements that you think are relevant to your goals, and that you would like to undertake as your chosen option for enhancement. You will be very busy with your new subjects, studies and other extra-curricular opportunities from beginning with us in September, so now is an ideal time to start planning ahead.

## Work Experience Student Testimonies

**Where I went:** Rosebridge Court Care Home

**What I learnt:** I learned compassion and empathy towards residents and to be able to help them as much as I can. I have also learnt how to work as a team with other colleagues to carry out a task to the best of its ability. I have also learnt that different mental issues require different levels of empathy and help.

**This will help my future because:** it will help me with group projects within college and university. But it will also help me in my future career as a nurse as I understand the needs that



a vulnerable adult has/ may have on a deeper level as I will be able to help them and will see when they need my help the most.

**Where I went:** Highfield St Matthews CofE Primary School

**What I learnt:** I learnt that you need a lot of skills to become a teacher such as patience as every child learns at different rates and also that to keep a child interested in the subject they are learning it is important to be enthusiastic in your delivery. I have also learnt that you need confidence to be able to teach children otherwise they can lose confidence in you and their own learning and this has helped to build my own confidence.

**This will help my future because:** I would like to continue into a career of education, particularly primary education as it has given me experience in how to teach and communicate with younger children.

**Where I went:** Sunshine House

**What I learnt:** I learnt how to work and function as a team, how an organisation works to help a community and how to be patient with individuals who may not understand everything.

**This will help my future because:** It will help me at college and university when I have to do group projects I will know how to organize the group well. It may also help in my future career as I understand how teams work. It will also help in my future because I have experience with working with individuals of different age and with certain disabilities such as Autism or Dementia.

**Where I went:** Standards Trophy Shop

**What I learnt:** I learnt mostly how to assemble trophies. But I think I developed skills of teamwork and more independence as most of tasks are left to you after you have been shown what to do. I think this has also given me more confidence for when I go into a workplace because I have experienced what it is like.

**This will help my future because:** The skills it has given me and now I can use this on a CV which shows that I have commitment to working because I have been keen to do work.