

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 30th June – 4th July 2025



INTRODUCTION

Work experience enables students to gain important insights into their career interests and values; and can help them with their future decision making. With fewer students experiencing the world of work through part-time jobs, work experience gives students the opportunity to understand the work environment, develop and practice employability skills and prepare for employment or future training in a safe and supported way.

On work experience a student spends time on employer's premises and carries out set tasks, as an employee would, with an emphasis on the learning aspects. Students can go on work experience from the beginning of year 10, when students are aged 14/15 years old.

The aim of work experience at Castle Donington College is to introduce students to the world of work, develop employability skills and to inspire students to make positive choices for Post-16.

FINDING A PLACEMENT

Students will need to do some research and think about the type of role they would like, and the type of organisation it will be in. Then they can ask parents, family and friends, for contacts or use Google to find local companies to approach.

A direct introduction is best, so see if anyone known can offer an introduction. If not, see if you can find a contact online. When making contact, it's important to be clear about what is being asked for and give details such as when, how long, and what the student is looking for. Students can contact the organisation by telephone, letter or email, and should sound professional, interested and polite. Students may need to follow up several times to get an answer and may need to try a few people to get a 'yes'.

All Year 10 students have been given a work experience preparation booklet which contains useful resources to support them through the work experience programme. It includes templates to use when approaching an employer, links to create a CV and sites to use to research different skills and jobs they may wish to look into for work experience.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN SOURCING A PLACEMENT:

- Parents are responsible for travel to a placement.
- Not all job roles are suitable for work experience, so students may need to be more realistic in their choice.
- **Year 10 work placements are to find out more about the world of work rather than a definitive career choice.**
- Some sectors are very competitive, some have application forms, some will even expect students to attend interviews.
- Some employers now offer virtual work experience rather than in-person work experience.
- Students cannot have work experience with people working from home unless they are their own parents/carers.

KEY INFORMATION

HOURS OF WORK: Students are treated as young workers when on work experience, so it is expected that:

- There is a maximum of an 8-hour day (not including breaks/travel)
- Students should **not** usually work before 7am or after 7pm
- Students are entitled to a rest break (of at least 30 minutes) after 4.5 hours worked
- Students should have a rest period of not less than 12 consecutive hours in each 24-hour period

We suggest that working hours are clearly agreed by the employer and student/parent in advance of the placement. Students are advised to contact employers prior to placement to confirm working times.

PAYMENT: Work experience is part of the school curriculum and as such, no payment should be made between employer and student as this would cause issues with child employment law. However, employers may offer expenses for lunch and/or travel at their discretion.

LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS: Students will follow the employers' usual lunchtime arrangements. If parents would prefer students to remain on the employers premises at lunchtime, please contact the employer directly to notify them of this.

REPORTING OF INCIDENTS / ACCIDENTS: Employers must immediately contact the school and the student's emergency contact if a student is involved in an incident. Accidents must also be recorded in line with HSE guidance and a written report given to the school. In cases of accident or sickness, employers agree to take action and offer first aid facilities to students or notify the emergency services if appropriate.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Students must hold in confidence any information they may obtain about the organisation during work experience and such information may not be disclosed without employer's permission.

Information regarding work experience should not be shared by employer or student on any social media platform. Any issues encountered should be raised with the College in the first instance.

PARENTAL SUPPORT

As a parent your key responsibilities are:

- To read this information alongside your child and abide by the guidance given.
- To give consent. An online **Parent Consent Form** link will be shared with you via parent pay.
- To support your child to find a placement, you will need to submit information about the placement via Microsoft forms or a paper copy, **these are available on the website**
- To send the Employer Letter of Understanding which includes a link to a MS form for the employer to complete.
- To share medical information directly with employers for risk assessment purposes.
- To get students to and from the placement, ensure placement locations are appropriate.
- To inform the school and employer of any absence from the placement within 30 minutes of the expected start time.

HEALTH, SAFETY, INSURANCE

It is most likely employers will already have everything needed in place to comply with health & safety, as well as insurance to accommodate a work experience student. The key points are:

- Employers must meet current legal standards for health & safety at work.
- The employer has primary responsibility for the health and safety of the student on placement and should be managing any significant risks.
- Employer Liability Insurance must be in place.
- Employers must be given any student medical information to be considered for risk assessments directly by parents.
- Employers must share risk assessment information directly with parents prior to placement start date.

INSURANCE: Employer Liability Insurance: Under health and safety law, work experience students are employees and employers existing employers' liability insurance (ELI) policy will cover them on work placements.

If an employer is a family business or sole trader, they may not have ELI. If a family business takes on an employee who is not closely related to the employer, or if a sole trader takes on an employee, then there is a requirement to have ELI for work experience to take place.

Placements cannot occur without it.

RISK ASSESSMENT: If employers already employ young people or have taken work experience students before, they can simply use existing arrangements for risk assessments and management of risks to young people. If not, they must review/update their risk assessment before the student starts.

Employers need to explain to parents/carers of students what the significant risks are and what has been done to control them. This can be done in whatever way is simplest and most suitable, including verbally. Where relevant, employers must also remember to share any Covid risk assessment details with students.

INDUCTION, INSTRUCTION, SUPERVISION: Risks should be covered with the student in an induction on day one. This is an opportunity for their supervisor to go through risk assessment and other general health and safety information, including fire safety, first aid procedures, welfare facilities and use of personal protective equipment. Other policies employers may have such as mobile phone use or confidentiality issues can also be covered at induction.

Students should receive clear instruction and should be supervised by a competent named person, taking account of the age and lack of knowledge and experience of the student. The student should not operate machinery/carry out tasks unless adequate instruction and competent supervision can be provided for it to be used/done safely. However, with suitable training, instruction and supervision (risks managed) students can carry out most tasks.

Prior knowledge of the student's skills will give employers a better idea of what students are capable of and what tasks they can be allocated.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR): Employers are required to meet current GDPR standards when handling student and parent data.

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION: Employers are reminded of their role in safeguarding and child protection for work experience.

SCHOOL CONTACT/QUERIES

For any queries or issues relating to work experience
please email: workexperience@cdcollege.uk