

## **Work Experience Guide 2021 – 2022**

### **Why is Work Experience important?**

Firstly, gaining relevant work experience is compulsory and must be completed to pass graduation. We expect that all students will want to take part in work experience in order for them to develop a better understanding of the working world, and to help them make an informed decision about where they go after finishing college.

Secondly, a lot of research conducted by the Careers and Enterprise Company shows the impact that work experience can have on a student's outcomes, both in regards to their destination and their grades! Research has shown that students who complete meaningful work experience, tend to achieve higher grades and go on to more aspirational destinations. Furthermore, there is evidence that completing work experience helps with employability skills. This will help when you are competing against others in the job market!

Finally, it is an important aspect of being life ready. In order to be life ready, an understanding of the working world and how to navigate it is integral. Having transferable skills such as being able to work effectively as part of a team, is an important skill for after college. Also, being able to make informed career decisions is an important aspect of our Careers Programme.

### **What is 'meaningful' work experience?**

For a work experience placement or job shadowing placement to be meaningful, it has to help you in your future decision making. A lot of students will do work experience in places they think they would like to work in the future, or to trial if that type of career is what they thought it would be. A meaningful placement will also challenge stereotypes, push you out of your comfort zone and hopefully, you might even enjoy it!

### **What support will I get?**

We have a dedicated careers team who are on hand to help students find a good match for their work experience placement. However, we do encourage that students seek their own placements as well.

### **How long is a placement?**

It varies, as you are in college and the timetable is different. Students complete their work experience in various ways. Some do a week or a few days during in a school holiday (we suggest June in Year 12 and October in Year 13). Some students will complete a placement at the same each week, over a number of weeks.

### **Where do I record my work experience?**

During your Trinity+ sessions, you will have the opportunity to reflect on what you have learnt from your work experience placements. You will also discuss your experiences with your PPT and complete a Work Experience Log book whilst out on placement. This is useful for when you are applying to university or for jobs. Admissions teams and employers like students to be able to give specific examples about transferable skills they have developed and how they have applied them!