



South Dartmoor Community College

Year 11 Work Experience

Information Booklet

2021-2022

Truth Respect Equality Excellence



Introduction

Work Experience is the largest part of your careers programme in college. It is important; giving you a chance to experience the world of work, the opportunity to develop new skills, consider your future career choice and raise aspirations.

The deadline for the return of the parent/carer consent form and placement information to careers is **Monday 1 November 2021**. Deadlines cannot be extended.

Students who do not find a work experience placement will attend timetabled lessons and will complete work set by individual departments.

Below are some quotes from employers for students who have been on work experience previously:



I have to say that it was a real pleasure having him here. He was extremely polite, confident and was very keen to take on lots of different jobs

They were a great bunch to have on site

She had a very successful week and was a pleasure to host

She was enthusiastic, professional and really good company too

She is bright, articulate, listens well & asks relevant questions

He was one of the most competent work placements we have had here and would be welcome back any time

He was very enthusiastic and was well liked by the mentors he came into contact with



Finding a placement

You are expected to find your own work experience placement

You should start to contact employers now as placements fill quickly, especially the popular choices such as NHS, Veterinary etc.

Ask your parents or family to contact local companies or businesses (you cannot work in their own business or alongside them, but they may have contacts).

Whoever you decide to approach it is better if you make initial contact, this shows the employer that you can be independent, shows you have initiative and have an interest in the workplace.

You can make the application in person, by writing to them, sending an email or by telephoning. If you write please remember to give a reply address and include why you would like to work at their company or place of work. Please see below an example letter and email.

If you telephone or approach an employer in person, you will need to follow up with a confirmation email as soon as possible, employers are generally very busy and do not always remember calls or visits!

You will need to consider how you are going to get to the placement. There is no point arranging to go somewhere and then realising you cannot get there. If you are relying on a lift please make sure you have a back-up plan in case they cannot take you one day – consider whether you would be able to get there by foot, bike, bus or train.

Placements take time to find and for all the necessary paperwork to be completed and returned but if you start early you are more likely to get the placement you want. Don't get disheartened if you are turned down, just try again.

If you get really stuck, we (in careers) have a list of employers we have used in the past. They are not guaranteed places but it may be worth you contacting them to ask.

When you have arranged a placement with an employer you **must** let the careers office know, we will need the employer's contact details, including an email address. Once we have the details we will arrange for a Health and Safety Check to take place; this is being carried out by an external agency. When we have these checks completed you will be sent a copy as confirmation that you are able to attend the placement. Deadline for employer details is **Monday 1 November 2021**.

How to contact a prospective placement

You can contact an employer:

- In person
- By letter
- By email
- By phone

If it is a large company and you do not have a contact person it may be best to address your enquiry to the Human Resources department. Alternatively, if it is a small company/business address it to the Manager.

Email is usually the best way to contact anybody as it is quicker and almost guaranteed to reach the person it is intended for. It is easier for an employer to reply to an email. You can generally find an email address on their website.

If you are interested in shop work, it is better for you to visit the shop in person. Remember to make a good first impression!

Contact several companies/businesses, often they do not reply and this gives you several options. Remember don't get disheartened if you are turned down, just keep trying.

Suggested draft for a letter or email for placement request

For emails when you don't have a direct contact address:

In the subject line start with FAO Human Resources or FAO the Manager.

If you are applying by letter, it can be hand written or typed - your preference. Remember employers are busy people so try to keep letters no longer than one side of A4.

This is your first form of contact to a prospective employer and therefore you will want to make a good impression, remember to check:

- Spelling
- Presentation
- Company/Business name and address
- That you have the correct work experience date (**Monday 13th December – Thursday 16th December 2021**).

Guide to writing your letter or email

Your Name

Your Address

Person's Name, HR department or the Manager
Name and address of company/business

Dear Sir/Madam (or the person's name if known)

Work Experience

I am a student at South Dartmoor Community College/Atrium Studio School. As part of our curriculum we are asked to do work experience and I wondered whether it would be possible for me to work with your company/organisation (whichever one is correct). The work experience date is Monday 13th December – Thursday 16th December 2021.

Briefly say why you want to work with them and what you hope to gain from the experience

- Possible ideas – (show you have done some research) your company is well known....established.....I would like to gain an insight into.....I am hoping to pursue a career in....

Briefly give details of GCSE/A level subjects you are studying – say what subjects you particularly enjoy and why.

Briefly give details of activities or responsibilities you take part in (Duke of Edinburgh etc).

Finally mention any interests you have out of college.

Finish with

Yours faithfully (name not known) Yours sincerely (name known)

Sign your name with your name printed underneath.

Do not forget...

Do not forget to let careers know once you have secured a placement. We will need contact details (company, contact name, email address and telephone number). If we do not receive these details and we are unable to send the necessary legal form to be completed and returned by the employer we will **not** be able to authorise the placement. This paperwork is a legal requirement. If you are not able to come into careers you can send the information to careers@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk .

The deadline for this information is **Monday 1 November 2021**.

Steps to follow...

- Parents to complete and return the consent form by the deadline Monday 1 November.
- Contact possible employers - arrange work experience.
- Once you have a placement secured, deadline Monday 1 November 21, let careers know.
- Careers South West will then contact the employer to complete a Health and Safety Check.
- Once the Health and Safety Check is returned; careers will e-mail you to confirm the placement can go ahead.
- Monday 13th December to Thursday 16th December 2021 placements commence.

Placement ideas

Teignbridge, Torbay and Devon County Councils: Have a variety of work experience placements available: - Environmental health, Legal department, public parks and grounds, Countryside rangers, Engineering, accountancy....check out their website for their wide range of opportunities

Finance: Accountancy firms, Banks, Building Societies, Insurance companies.

Retail and High Street: Shops, Jewellers, Opticians, Estate Agents etc.

Engineering Firms: Civil engineering, Structural engineering, Manufacturing

Motor Vehicle: Mechanic, Car sales, Car parts (Auto centres)

Professional: Solicitors, Architects, Schools

Childcare: Nurseries, Schools (Primary and Secondary)

Art & Design: Schools, Galleries, Web designers, Interior design, Fashion designers

Animal Care: Veterinary Practices, Stables, Visitor attractions (zoos, Pennywell Farm etc.), Pet shops

Hospitality & Catering: Restaurants, Cafés, hotels, Cookery school

Construction: Builders, Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, Painter & Decorators (no lone workers)

Sport: Leisure Centre, Sport Centres, Schools, Football stadiums.

Healthcare: Hospitals – offer various department opportunities. Check with Careers for details. Pharmacists, Dentists, Doctors surgeries, Care Homes.

Armed Forces: Both the Navy and the Army offer work experience placements, these are fixed date placements and don't always correspond with our dates although if you are really interested we may be able to arrange this depending on the time of year (see careers for dates).

Police: We have in the past been able to arrange placements with the Police, unfortunately it is becoming rare....if you know someone in the police force they may be able to arrange a week usually office based.

Work experience is to give you the chance to sample the world of work, it does not have to be what you want to do when you leave college. But if there is something you really want to do remember the earlier you start looking the more likely you are to get your first choice.

Good luck in securing a placement.