

Principal: Mr R Gummery  
Vice Principal: Miss K Athawes  
Vice Principal: Mrs L Fraser

July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to welcome you to our Year 10 Work Experience Programme here at Ercall Wood Academy.

Work Experience is an incredibly valuable programme, where students are given a wonderful opportunity to gain an insight into their chosen or potential career path, and into the world of work. The programme helps students build and develop their employability skills, gain essential first-hand experience, and stand out in their applications to 6<sup>th</sup> Forms, Colleges, Universities and potential employers.

We are fully committed to supporting your child through this programme, but equally their commitment is essential. Your child will be expected to contact and arrange their own placement and secure their own work experience opportunity. Students will be representing their academy, so we expect the usual high standards from them all. Employers must be contacted in both a professional and respectful manner.

We work alongside Telford & Wrekin Council's, **Education Business Links Team (EBL)**, who govern whether students can go out on work experience. The EBL Team ensure businesses offer valuable placements and carry out the required Health and Safety checks ensuring a safe environment is provided to students. The team tell us whether a placement is suitable and decide whether a student can take part in this experience. Any decision made by The EBL Team will be fully supported by the academy.

Your child should now be thinking about, and starting to arrange their own work experience placement for our programme taking place week commencing **Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. They should be getting ideas, thinking about their interests and what they hope to gain out of their placement.

We understand that some students may struggle to find experience in the companies they want, so it is important to have regular updates with them and that they do not give up. Students must be encouraged to keep searching and try to gain experience in either similar fields, or look at a completely different kind of experience, as it is all part of experiencing a potential career opportunity.

To help assist your child with their journey, we are pleased to be able to give them access to the EBL Database. This database contains the details of many employers who have offered work experience placements in the past. Your child can access this database from the following link <https://dac.telford.gov.uk/workexperience/> to start their search for potential work experience placements. Full training on how to use this Database will have been provided, but a Student Guide will be emailed to child once access has been granted.

It is important that students contact employers **themselves** by either phone, letter or email, as this is all part of their experience and builds on their communication skills. Students will usually be expected to write a letter of application and send a CV along with it. Do not forget there may well be other schools trying to arrange their work experience placements too – so remember to stand out in your application and not to leave it too late.

Students must remember to include:

- Which academy they are from and the contact details
- The name of their work experience co-ordinator (Mrs Hoof)
- The dates of their placement (4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022)



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- Their name and contact details
- The reasons for their interest in their chosen company
- Anything else that will help them stand out in their application

All employers must have **Employers Liability Insurance** in place, and able to provide evidence of this. Without this insurance the EBL Team **will not** approve any business. This is to ensure the necessary insurances are in place should anything happen. It is essential your child checks with their employer that they have the relevant insurance in place covering a work experience placement **before** they submit any placements to the academy for approval.

Once a placement and the insurances have been confirmed by the employer, your child will need to enter their placement details onto the EBL Database to request Approval by the EBL Team.

To add details onto the database, students will need to know the following information:

- Name of Business
- Contact name
- Full postal address
- Phone number and email address
- Which department they will be working in/type of placement

It is important that placements are arranged quickly, and that we receive the information as soon as possible. The EBL Team will need to carry out a Health & Safety check well before the start of the placement – usually 3 months before the start date.

It is therefore essential that all placements are arranged and confirmed by the Employer no later than: **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**. Your child must inform the employer of any medical conditions or any additional requirements they may need during their placement too.

We understand this can be a nervous time for your child, but we hope they are able to see the huge benefits and make the most of this rewarding opportunity. We look forward to supporting them through their work experience journey and hearing all about it.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Hoof

Careers, Enterprise & Work Experience Coordinator

