

Y10 Work Experience Q&A October 2021

- 1. Why do you need to know where we are going for work experience in March if the event isn't until July?**

This gives us time to make checks, make sure all the necessary paperwork is in place and share any important information with employers. It also means we have a bit of time to support any students who have had problems securing a placement.

- 2. Can you get paid for your work experience?**

You shouldn't expect to get paid for work experience. This is not about getting paid; it is about giving you experiences (which might help you to find a job and get paid in the future) and it does take a lot of commitment and support from employers for you to have this opportunity. Having said that, some generous employers have given students a gift or some money, but this is not the norm.

- 3. What will happen if you are unable to gain a placement?**

We will work with you to support you through this process. Take action early, but ask for help if you need it. We would like all of you to go out on work experience and we will do our best to make this happen.

- 4. Is it possible to work in a bank?**

Yes, in a branch or in a bank's offices. You might not be handing out cash to customers, but you should get chance to see the money and how it all works behind the scenes.

- 5. Can students do work experience at Meadowhead if they are considering a career in education?**

There are benefits to going to a new setting for work experience. Sometimes it is easier to have a more realistic experience or manage any new rules in a setting where you aren't a student already. Some departments at school will take a student, but spaces are very limited. Students would need to ask staff in their chosen department.

- 6. Can we do work experience with a family member?**

Yes, although we still need all the completed paperwork to make sure you are safe.

- 7. Can you help with work uniform ie safety boots?**

Yes, we can loan out safety boots. Please let us know if you need them. If there are other barriers to you taking part in work experience, please let us know and we will do what we can to help.

- 8. Can you give a couple of examples of the most 'stand out' work experience examples from the past please?**

Spotify, working with a judge in USA, Y12 student worked with a special effects company, Rolls-Royce, Boeing and many more. Sometimes students get the most out of experiences with smaller, lesser-known businesses, so try not to get too hung up on finding a dream placement with a big name company. You will also get further opportunities for work experience in Y12, through college etc.

9. Are you allowed to work underground - related to gas works

I would expect that this would not be permitted by the company. We don't tend to see opportunities for young people to do road-based work under 18, plus there would be further risks with working in excavations and with gas mains etc. Come and see us if you want to find out if any work in this type of setting could be possible.

10. Can you work in the military?

Possibly. We have had students complete Army work experience in the past. You would need to check on the armed forces websites initially.

11. Can you work away from Sheffield - if so can you have longer than 1 week?

Yes, you can work away from Sheffield. In most cases, we cannot give you more than one week out of school. If an employer can only offer you experience outside the standard week, we would consider this but it would have to be approved by one of the senior staff at school. Talk to us if you are not sure. Some students choose to do work experience in the school holidays if they want more time.

12. Are there any jobs that are not allowed for work experience?

Jobs where you are at risk (for example, working at height), jobs where you need to be 18 (for example, serving alcohol). If you're not sure, please ask.

13. What will happen if your placement is cancelled last minute or Covid prevents you from attending last minute?

This did happen to some students last year. We would need to follow the rules around Covid at that time. If you have Covid, you would need to self-isolate; if your employer had Covid, we would need to look at alternative arrangements.

Last year, we ran some work experience activities back in school with input from employers and some hands-on activities. We were a bit limited with hands-on sessions, due to the rules in place at the time, but all students got some sort of experience. Some students joined these sessions at the last minute due to issues with their placement. We will prepare some back-up activities again this year, just in case.

If you have further questions, please come to the Careers Drop-In on Tuesdays in M10. Alternatively, you can ask your form tutor or email careers@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk.