



22nd January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers of Y10

Year 10 Work Experience

I am writing to you all, in this time of virtual learning, to inform you of something exciting, ambitious, and of arguably greater value to your son / daughter than any other year group in recent memory.

Last year was due to be the first time Y10 students would carry out a week's worth of work experience, but COVID pulled the rug from under our feet in a big way. In fact, I would argue that careers provision has been one of the most hard-hit areas in education right now, with external agencies unable to provide the kinds of service they have in the past. Sadly, carrying out an 'ordinary' work experience programme is completely impossible this year.

However, we have identified a fantastic opportunity for us to give Year 10 students a full week's worth of **virtual** work experience across a variety of sectors. We would normally wish to carry out a work experience week towards the end of the academic year, but since the students are currently in lockdown we felt it would be pertinent to push this forward, since they are at home using their chromebooks each day anyway. This is why this message to you all comes at such short notice, as we felt this was simply too good an opportunity to pass.

We propose to carry out the work experience in the week beginning **Monday 8th February**. Year 10 students will not attend lessons during this week and will instead receive a robust timetable consisting of meetings, assignments and reviews. Students will be informed, guided and matched with workforces in the two weeks leading up to the event. It is likely that the working days will run from 10am to 5pm

Some key events will include:

- a video introduction early next week, provided by the company we are working with, Changing Education ([here is a link to their website](#));
- in the middle of next week, students will download an app (or access content through their chromebook), where they will choose at least three areas of industry interest and complete a work personality questionnaire;
- the app will contain content to support with placement readiness;
- students will be provided with a timetable to follow during the work experience week. This will be via email, and it is vitally important students check their emails regularly during this time;
- once the week has been completed, students will be awarded official certification of completion.

We will, of course, guide students every step of the way in what we expect to be an enjoyable and valuable experience for them all. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at n.weedy@stokesleyschool.org; you can also contact our Careers Lead at any time at j.harrison-henry@stokesleyschool.org.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Weedy
Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form & Progression)

