

# Life Ready Work Ready Newsletter

## WELCOME

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to our first Life Ready Work Ready newsletter.

Life Ready Work Ready brings together a range of services and support designed to help young people prepare themselves for the world of work. Through our newsletter, we aim to keep you updated on what is available that can complement and underpin the work of our education and training providers, to provide your young people with the education and skills they need.

The current global situation we find ourselves in with COVID-19 has disrupted all our lives in many different ways. For young people, this has been particularly hard around the continuity for their education and training. It has been incredibly challenging for you all, and you have done an amazing job to keep education and training going.

We are now seeing steep rises in the number of individuals becoming unemployed, with the loss of many jobs in our local area. Again, a significant number of these are young people under the age of 24. Never has the time been greater to support young people in every way we can to ensure they are as ready as possible for transition into the work place.

Our traditional ways of working are changing rapidly - online delivery, use of information technology and sites such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom are now becoming the norm for recruitment and training. We are working with our local employers to enable work experience, careers days, job fairs and interview practice to be available to our young people through these virtual channels where possible.

We have some excellent employers in our local area who are willing and able to give the labour market and world of work information and support that our young people will need. Through Life Ready Work Ready activities, we want to work with you all to get the best support for our young people and help all our providers meet their Gatsby benchmark targets.

Thank you for your great support with employer engagement in the last year and please get in touch if we can help you again this year.

Best wishes

Sue

Skills Service Delivery Manager



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## CAREERS ADVICE WITH FUTUREFOCUS

As part of our traded delivery, you will soon see the Year 11 careers packs arriving in school, which provides each of your young people with a vast array of information & advice to get them thinking and making career plans! It includes a list of useful websites, open evenings and events and flyers from our post 16 education & training providers. In addition, we will be writing to all Year 11 parents, letting them know that their child has received a pack, and what they can do to help support them at this time.

We are also working hard across all schools to support our SEND young people with their post 16 transition. We will be attending annual reviews and ensuring that they are as prepared as

possible to move into their next provision.

In addition, we continue to provide support for those young people identified as being at risk of NEET. Thank you for your contribution and information in identifying these young people. It is invaluable in ensuring that we are able to do what we can to remove barriers and help them to make a positive move after leaving school.

*“It is very important that our young people have constructive early work experiences. But it is equally important that their jobs are safe and complement their education, rather than complete it “ Alexis Harmer*

### WORK EXPERIENCE WITH EDUCATION BUSINESS LINKS

We take great pride in assessing potential work experience placements for students to ensure they meet requirements in accordance with HSE guidelines.

Each year we work with our extensive network of employers to source both pre- and post-16 work experience placements for over 3,500 students from schools and colleges across Shropshire.

The placements we source help young people develop their employability skills while gaining an insight into working life and potential career opportunities.

## WORK EXPERIENCE TOP TIPS

### Be different, be daring!

Here are a few things to think about:

Plan your placements ...so students can take advantage of the great opportunities on offer (avoiding the late summer term can potentially be advantageous)

But be flexible ...allowing students to access opportunities with employers via a competitive application process

Be open minded ...students who are matched with more than one employer gain an extra insight

Do different ...e.g. ask employers if their supply chain employers/customers can support a placement so students can experience the product/process lifecycle

The employer may have seasonal fluctuations, meaning the summer period is busier and staff are pre-occupied with more pressing priorities.

If they can only take one student at a time and if students are all only available over the same few weeks, the competition for places increases.

There may be better opportunities at other times of the year, which lend themselves to being better quality perhaps because of the variety of the tasks on offer or the number of staff able to get involved.

The employer may be more receptive to a student if they don't feel inundated with requests at the same time every year.

Reflection is invaluable for everyone involved. Get students involved from the outset, instead of a logbook/record/diary you might ask them to write a blog, use an electronic voting system or app or a video diary to record their experiences.

Don't forget... if you buy into the EBL service we will be able to support you with your work experience programme. Please discuss timings with us in advance so we can make sure we achieve the best outcomes for all of your students.

## LRWR WEBSITE

After 12 months, we finally have a Life Ready Work Ready website. Whilst lockdown has had its challenges, it has given us an opportunity to focus on those other tasks that tend to be left when times are busy. We haven't been idle during this time - we have instead focussed on developing the website to support schools and businesses to access useful information and resources, make booking events easier and promote the amazing work that is being done to better prepare young people for the world of work. The website will share spotlight videos, case studies, a calendar of events, whilst sharing important information - it really will be a celebration of good practice!

## A VIRTUAL WORLD

As we are adapting to new ways of working, we are also trying new ways to support young people to experience as many opportunities as possible in the world of work. If we are to focus on what we see in the news, then young people are likely to be the hardest hit at this time, with many not gaining work experience and numbers of roles disappearing. The knock-on effect of this will be skills shortages within our businesses in the future. To overcome some of the barriers we are all currently facing, the virtual world offers a great opportunity. As an organisation, we are currently working with schools and businesses to plan a variety of virtual business engagement opportunities, including virtual workplace visits, business video interactions such as interviews, video talks and projects, to mention just a few. If you are a business and feel this would be something you can get involved in, or a school wanting to find out more, then please contact us.

Fujitsu are very excited to be putting together a programme of opportunities for students supporting CV writing, interview techniques, workplace visits (although these may be virtual) and lots, lots more. They have a small, very enthusiastic team wanting to give students positive workplace/employer engagement opportunities and have access to a bank of university students wanting to share their experiences and the barriers they have faced with students during world of work events. Fujitsu have worked closely with Erccall Wood previously and are keen to share this with other local schools. Keep watching for updates.



LRWR have been working with Kelda Wood of Climbing Out. Kelda is very passionate about working with vulnerable young people, her charity provide adventure breaks for young people with life limiting illness, trauma and bereavement. The programmes are designed to build confidence and self-esteem and learn the tools and strategies they need to manage change. Kelda has developed a programme which will provide schools with a 6 week programme working, with students who may need that extra support, especially as many will be experiencing anxiety and worries related to the current pandemic. Work will be done to develop coping strategies, build confidence and self-esteem, this will be done along with Kelda's beautiful therapy dogs and an opportunity for parents to meet for the final session to then be able to further support

their children. Kelda is such an inspirational person, having faced her own enormous challenges from injury whilst training to be an Olympian, climbing Kilimanjaro to being the first para solo female to row the Atlantic. Kelda shares her journey with students, if you haven't already heard this then please take a look at [www.climbingout.org.uk](http://www.climbingout.org.uk).

If you think your school would be interested in this programme, it will be offered to year 10 students as a small group. Please look out for further information coming in to schools. A TEAMS meeting will be arranged for those who would like to know more.

[Keldawood@climbingout.org.uk](mailto:Keldawood@climbingout.org.uk)



## VIRTUAL ENCOUNTERS

Earlier this year, young people missed out on work experience, careers fairs and other valuable business focussed events that would normally have taken place in schools and colleges.

The careers agenda is more important than ever in the current climate of job losses and uncertainty, so we are looking at virtual employer encounters to continue to bring the world of work to life for young people. A number of our willing employers have been recording themselves talking about their current job, how they got there, what school subjects are useful for their role and what skills they need. These recordings are being shown in curriculum subjects to show the relevance of subjects to careers.

We are now encouraging employers to take part in live Q & A sessions in schools and set real life, work-related tasks for young people to apply their learning. If any employers would be willing to help with any of this, please let us know.

## ENTERPRISE ADVISER NETWORK

**Are you a local employer, or do you know someone that would like to work with local schools or colleges?**

We are currently looking for Enterprise Advisers across all sectors to work with us in supporting schools to meet the GATSBY benchmarks.

**Who can take on the role?**

Our Enterprise Advisers come from different industry sectors and professional backgrounds, be that employed, self-employed or recently retired.

They are dedicated to making a lasting impact on the future outcomes of young people.

**Why sign up to be an Enterprise Adviser?**

Give back to your community.

Support your local school or college to deliver world-class guidance to their students.

Undertake strategic planning in a new context, developing your skills in communication and strategy development.

Build strong working relationships with your local school or college, and provide insight into your organisation and industry.

Better understand the education sector and the challenges faced.

**What will you be doing?**

Providing an employer's perspective.

Supporting the school or college's senior leadership team.

Engaging with local businesses and employers in your network.

Helping schools and colleges to focus efforts.

## ONLINE CAREERS CPD

The latest version of the Careers & Enterprise Company's free online training courses is now available, with all the booking links found below. They are also saved in the Careers Leader resources on the Share-point CEC site.

The most appropriate courses for Careers Leaders are in blue and purple.

They include some masterclasses on Compass+



### How we use data in Compass+

20 August, 6 October, 3 November

### Upgrade to Compass+

15 September, 29 September, 24 November

### Getting Started with Compass+

22 September, 13 October, 10 November

### Integrating Compass+ with everyday good practice

17 November, 20 October





### LIFE READY, WORK READY AWARDS

Unfortunately, due to the current climate and social distancing measures in place, we have decided that our annual awards ceremony will be postponed until March 2021. This will allow us time to assess the situation and provide you with an event that is a true representation of the hard work that has been carried out.

### CONTACT US

If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved email:

[lifereadyworkready@telford.gov.uk](mailto:lifereadyworkready@telford.gov.uk) or visit [www.lifereadyworkready.co.uk](http://www.lifereadyworkready.co.uk)

### THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- ⇒ Offer work experience placements to young people
- ⇒ Inspire and offer business insight to local schools as an Enterprise Adviser
- ⇒ Sign up to support and deliver activities through our business school connector web portal:  
[www.businessschoolconnector.co.uk](http://www.businessschoolconnector.co.uk)
- ⇒ Sponsor education events or careers days
- ⇒ Engage with school or college life as a Governor
- ⇒ Promote your business to the future workforce and tackle long term skills gaps through collaboration

Telford and Wrekin Council  
Life Ready Work Ready  
Education Business links  
FutureFocus  
Careers & Enterprise  
Company

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For more information on how to get involved as a business volunteer, if you are a school looking to find out more about LRWR, or if you have something you would like to share in our newsletter please email:

[lifereadyworkready@telford.gov.uk](mailto:lifereadyworkready@telford.gov.uk)



THE CAREERS &  
ENTERPRISE  
COMPANY

