

Life Ready Work Ready Newsletter

WELCOME

Welcome to our second Life Ready Work Ready Newsletter.

Yet again we find ourselves in lockdown. This means that sadly, we have had to cancel or postpone many of the great events that we had lined up, working with our schools and partners, including our ever popular Apprenticeship, Employment and Skills Show at the International Centre. Despite not being able to have these face to face events, we are delighted to have had some great support from our post 16 providers, employers and partners to bring two weeks of virtual events. We are celebrating both National Apprenticeship Week, 8th to 14th February and National Careers Week, 1st to 5th March. Look out for updates promoting all the activities that will be available during those weeks.

In this issue you can find information on what our FutureFocus team are up to, continuing to support our young people in lockdown; how Telford & Wrekin Council are embracing the Kickstart scheme offering paid employment to young people; hints and tips on preparing for placements and some feedback from students who have had their placements.

We want to feature the great work that happens with employers supporting young people, so please get in touch if you have a story to tell, we would love to share it!

Best wishes for 2021!



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LIFE READY WORK READY WEBSITE

We are pleased to say that our website is live and ready to start filling with pictures and stories of the amazing work which is happening in our schools and businesses.

We will be sharing many of the videos from both the National Apprenticeship and Careers weeks.

Businesses wanting to get involved in better preparing young people for the world of work are now able to find out more information about how we sup-

port students and schools and can complete an expression of interest online.

If you have a story or item you would like us to add to the website please contact us:

www.lifereadyworkready.co.uk

Supporting businesses to engage with education across Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire

CAREERS ADVICE WITH FUTUREFOCUS

Given the unprecedented circumstances that we all find ourselves in, we wanted to provide an update on what FutureFocus, the careers service for young people, are doing to support your students during this time and how we can be contacted. With full ICT access, Advisers are working from home, enabling them to continue to provide careers support for the Year 11's in the schools that buy our service, as well as working with those students that are at risk of NEET, Looked After or SEND across all schools. We will still be attending annual reviews, PEP's and any other relevant meetings via MS Teams, so please continue to invite us along.

We are working closely with our post 16 education & training providers, who have assured us that they are still receiving and processing applications, with telephone interviews offered along with scheduled online open events. We are helping young people with these applications as best we can, via telephone calls, emails, MS Teams and texts, and chasing where needed. As always, we are liaising with parents/carers to help them to support their young people too.

FutureFocus Advisers linked to schools will continue to liaise with appropriate school staff to ensure we are aware of any concerns and to provide feedback on progress as required. Please help us to help you and your students by getting in touch if there is anything you feel we need to know.

Below are a couple of links that your students may find interesting and useful to check out!

- [Dream Jobs - Teenagers' Career Aspirations and the Future of Work](#)
- [The Future of Work Guide](#)



Logan Humphreys enjoying some volunteer work which on vocation at AFC Telford as a part of Kickstart Academy Work Experience Program.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience has always been an incredibly valuable programme, where students have the wonderful opportunity to gain an insight into their chosen or potential career path, and into the world of work. The programme helps build and develop student's employability skills, gain essential first-hand experience and stand out in their applications to 6th Forms, Colleges, Universities and potential employers.

The EBL Team are fully committed to supporting students through this programme, governing whether students can go out on work experience. The Team ensure businesses offer valuable placements, and carry out the required Health and Safety checks ensuring a safe environment is provided to students.

With the challenging Covid-19 pandemic, the EBL Team have had to find alternative ways to continue supporting schools with their work experience programme. For some, work experience had to be cancelled, while for others, work experience will be very different this year. Even though we have experienced a challenging year, we are pleased that the Covid pandemic hasn't stopped all placements from taking place. We were delighted that many students are still planning on doing their work experience, and that students from Kickstart at Telford College and The Thomas Adams School have been able to go out on extended work experience placements.

The students have really enjoyed their placements and have felt safe whilst on work experience.

WHAT THE STUDENTS SAID ABOUT THEIR PLACEMENTS

"My work placement is a very safe environment to work in, I enjoy working there very much I now have a Saturday Job there which I enjoy."

"Johnathan is the manager and is really good to work for. I think that this will really help me for when I leave school and get a job, as I will have worked in a working environment for two years"

(Students from Thomas Adams School on placement at Holly Farm Nursery)

"I think my placement is enjoyable I can have a laugh with everyone, and the people I work with there let me have a go a thing I wouldn't of thought I could do, with the covid situation it's been hard on Paul to say yes or no to me going to placement because of everyone else safety"

"I've really enjoyed the placement learning new things and helping with calving the cows and collecting cows from down the fields"

(Thomas Adams Students on placement at Applebys Farm)

"playmates is a good environment i have enjoyed it at my placement with learning with the children different ages and my work experience is closed because there was positive cases of covid19 and there are safe areas for the kid to play and there's nothing in the building what children can hurt them selves there's always polite staff around the placement and they got loads of activities for the kids to do indoor and outdoors and the staff make sure the children have there thermometer on there head checked when entering the nursery"

(Thomas Adams student on placement at Playmates)

WEX DATABASE

We have worked hard in developing our Work Experience programme, by introducing our new Database where schools are able to view and manage students journey at the simple click of a button. Virtual work experience, virtual presentations and ensuring employers are Covid secure have all been introduced and developed to help keep work experience going.

Schools are reminded that the EBL Team are here to support you through this challenging time and assist you with your work experience programme.



The Gatsby Foundation, on behalf of the Careers and Enterprise Company, are looking for school and college Careers Leaders to answer a short survey on their experience of delivering Benchmark 7 (Encounters with Further and Higher education) with schools, colleges and young people. The aim of the project is to learn more about how this Benchmark is being delivered on the ground, surface good practice and hear more about the barriers institutions are facing. This input will help shape Gatsby's work and support in this area.

If you are interested in taking part, please use the link below:

<https://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/latest/gatsby-launches-research-project-with-pye-tait-into-benchmark-7-encounters-with-further-and-higher-education>

WORK EXPERIENCE - GETTING STARTED

- Start talking to your students about work experience as early as possible. This could even be as early as Year7! Mentioning work experience at an early age gives students the chance to start thinking about their future careers and aspirations.
- Plan your work experience dates, taking into account when other local schools are going out. Remember, you don't want to exhaust the opportunities within your local labour market or add competition for work experience placements.
- Launch your work experience programme as soon as possible to your students. Remember, the earlier it is launched, the better your students can prepare themselves.
- Get your students to start thinking about where they would like to go and arrange their placement as soon as possible.
- Book in our Presentations to help prepare your students.
- If students are struggling for ideas, they could speak to their family, friends or last year's work experience students for ideas on where they went.
- Research and look on the internet or social media for ideas.
- Take the [Buzz quiz](#) to see what career is best suited to you.
- Use the EBL Database which contains the details of many employers who have offered work experience placements in the past.
- Look at the National Careers website for career ideas.
- Use your Careers Advisers for information and guidance.
- Remember to send your students confirmed placements to the EBL



Reece Davies having just completed some volunteer work at local football club AFC Telford as a part of Kickstart Academy's Work Experience program

KICKSTART SCHEME

Start your career journey
Job placements available
– apply now

Protect
Care and Invest
to create a
better borough



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL



Telford & Wrekin Council to offer 100 employment opportunities under Kickstart Scheme

Telford & Wrekin Council is leading the way in Shropshire, providing 100 work placements for young people this year as part of the Government's nationwide £2 billion Kickstart scheme.

The Council has been hailed by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) as the first locally-based employer in Shropshire to begin recruiting for the placements.

The first young people are expecting to join Telford & Wrekin Council by March.

The aim will be to give young people the chance to learn new and transferable skills as well as provide access to online learning to help young people prepare for all aspects of employment. The intention is that all Kickstart employees will be 'work-ready' by the time they finish the programme, supporting them on their future career journeys.

The Kickstart scheme was announced by the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, as part of his Plan for Jobs. It enables employers to offer six-month job placements for 16-24-year-olds claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment, with their wages paid by the Government for up to 25 hours per week.

Mr Sunak's vision is for hundreds of thousands of new, subsidised jobs to be created across the country.

Cllr Shirley Reynolds Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Lifelong Learning said: "We are extremely proud to be recruiting 100 employees through this unique initiative to provide opportunities to kickstart the careers of young people."

Ben Vaughan, Employer Manager for DWP in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin said "The DWP are really excited to be working with our colleagues at Telford & Wrekin Council to deliver the Kickstart scheme.

They will be creating a broad range of vacancies

across their different departments that I know will be very appealing for our younger jobseekers. Their Kickstart jobs are the first locally led vacancies to appear in Shropshire for our work coaches to begin supporting their jobseekers to apply for, and we have already had a significant amount of interest in them."

Placements will be available across a broad range of service areas, from leisure and teaching to heritage management and more. The Council has committed to offering the candidates the opportunity for a second six-month placement to gain wider experience.

The move underlines the commitment of Telford & Wrekin Council to support young people, whose employment prospects have been particularly badly hit in the past

year, largely due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the UK economy.

While unemployment in Telford & Wrekin is below regional and UK rates, there has been a worrying growth in youth unemployment which is now proportionately higher than across the West Midlands and England.

Telford & Wrekin's youth unemployment rate, at 8.4% is above both regional and national figures (England 7.4%, West Midlands 8.3%). In contrast the district's overall unemployment rate of 6.2%, is below that in the West Midlands (7.3%) and England (6.3%).

In Telford & Wrekin there were 6,925 people aged 16 and over claiming unemployment related benefits in October 2020, a reduction of 190 people - or 2.7% - from the month before.

There were 1,615 young people aged 16-24 in Telford and Wrekin claiming unemployment related benefits in October 2020, five less than the month before, equivalent to a fall of 0.3% from the month before.

For further information and to register please visit www.telford.gov.uk/kickstart

WHATS ON

Well here go again with another lockdown and further school closures. After schools had returned in 2020 there was lots of careful planning of great activities for 2021 both virtually and in schools but sadly many of these have now been cancelled for the early part of this year.

However it isn't all bad news as students will be able to access lots of information during National Apprenticeship week 8th-14th February and National Careers week 1st-5th March.

The combined skills services are working in partnership with Job Box, MSPN and Ladder of Shropshire to deliver local information for Telford and Shropshire bringing in organisations who are offering apprenticeship opportunities, personal stories and support in applying for vacancies to mention just a sample of what will be available during both weeks. We will be showcasing a variety of sectors, roles within those areas and the opportunities they have available. You will be able to access these virtual weeks through the Job Box website



Find out more about the Ladder for Shropshire:

CALL: 0800 999 8441

EMAIL: enquiries@ladderforshropshire.org

VISIT: ladderforshropshire.org

Apprenticeship is a proven model for developing a skilled workforce.



THE JOB BOX

Celebrates
APPRENTICESHIPS WEEK
8-14 FEBRUARY 2021

Apprenticeships
National Apprenticeship Week
8 to 14 February 2021

Protect Care and Invest to create a better borough

Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL

National Apprenticeship Week takes place between 8 and 12 February 2021. Whilst we are disappointed The Apprenticeship Show at the TIC cannot happen this year we are bringing you a whole range of online information and support to tell you everything you need to know about Apprenticeships from the comfort of your own home!

All information will be available throughout the week on www.jobbox.co.uk



- National Apprenticeship Week 8th-14th February 2021
- National Careers Week 1st-5th March 2021

CONTACT US

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

lifereadyworkready@telford.gov.uk or visit 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
- ⇒ 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



Free Data for 250,000

School Children

Vodafone is offering up to 250,000 free data SIMs - with 30GB data for 90 days - to children in primary and secondary schools across the UK, so they can #KeepConnecting and learning at home.

These free SIMs will help those school children most in need to access school work from home, catch up on lost learning during school holidays and continue with their education if they are required to isolate.

For more information, please visit the below link

[Free data for UK students | Coronavirus | Vodafone](#)

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



THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY



Education
working hand in hand
with Business

