



6th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Y10 Virtual Work Experience Week: 13th-17th July 2020 & Big Bang Digital 2020

Following the disappointment of having to cancel the Y10 work experience placements due to Covid-19, I am pleased to inform you that our provider, Changing Education, are providing Y10 pupils with a 'Virtual' Work Experience Week. Work experience is vitally important, not only for supporting transitions into further education, training and employment but also for a pupils' personal and social development.

The Virtual Work Experience Week will take place in the final week of term, w/c Monday 13th July 2020. Y10 pupils will come into school as planned for their one day of face to face lessons. The Virtual Work Experience programme is flexible and can be completed at any time during the week when pupils are not in school. During this week, pupils will have the opportunity to learn from employers and to develop key employability skills. Each day pupils will be asked to watch a new sector spotlight video as well as get involved in a Springpod Learn Lounge 'Live Talk' during the week. Pupils will also have specific daily tasks to complete based on their own career aspirations.

To prepare for the week, Changing Education will be in touch with pupils via their school email address with invites to access the work experience app, Connect. On Friday 10th July 2020, pupils will receive a copy of the timetable for the Work Experience Week as well as guidance. Week commencing Monday 13th July 2020, pupils will receive daily emails with a video link, interactive activities and inspirational careers stories. Activities will include a work personality questionnaire, a financial awareness task on budget planning and guidance to create a winning CV. In the final session on Friday, pupils are asked to collate their work and to submit it to Changing Education for feedback from professionals.

It is essential that by the end of the week the core tasks are completed and submitted. No other work will be set for pupils on Microsoft Teams for daily completion. Pupils will receive a Bronze, Silver, Gold Award Certificate for work completed once they return to school in September. It is hoped that pupils will embrace the opportunity to produce high quality work during the Virtual Experience Week.

In addition to the virtual work experience, there is a further opportunity for pupils interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Big Bang Digital 2020 – Science, Engineering & Covid-19 is a free, online event on Tuesday 14 July 2020 that celebrates the amazing work of scientists and engineers in a pandemic. The 1-day event celebrates their achievements, hears about challenges, innovation and collaboration, and explores some upsides to lockdown. The line-up includes:

- The worldwide race to develop a vaccine (GSK)
- The environmental impact of staying at home (Plastic Oceans)
- Keeping the water flowing (Thames Water)
- Designing a social distancing lanyard (RS Components)
- Feeding the nation (Harper Adams)

The website is: <https://www.digitalbigbang.co.uk/>. Pupils can get involved with interactive polls, live Q&A sessions and Big Bang activities – there is also a follow-up competition for summer inspiration.

If pupils have any queries during the week, they will be able to contact me direct via Microsoft Teams.
Yours sincerely,

Mrs M. Henshaw
Deputy Headteacher