

Work Experience 2022/23

Information for Parents

Transition year provides students with an opportunity to explore many options. The work experience module is a chance for them to investigate any potential career area on their own terms without any pressure. But preparation is the key.

- The first thing to do is be inventive. Students should be encouraged to start thinking now and research work areas they have an interest in. By early October TY students will be asked to submit details of their placements for so they need to start planning early September **AT THE LATEST.**
- The onus is placed on the student with the help of their parents to find their own placements. We encourage students to start by trying to find placements by themselves through their family or personal contacts. This places the responsibility on them to do it on their own. However, parents are also asked to play an active role here should students need help.
- Students are also encouraged to look through newspapers, media etc for contacts. Speaking to present fourth and fifth years about their experiences could also help.

Work Experience is a potentially very valuable activity and can help not just to focus on a career, but also to decide what college to go to and what subjects one might need to get into a college course, what apprenticeship they may have an aptitude for etc. Even if they do not enjoy the work placement, it can still provide a positive experience. It helps to rule out possibilities and teaches them about the cost of living in terms of commuting, eating out etc. It also provides them with the opportunity to develop their social skills and to mature.

Another key feature of work experience is meeting deadlines. Students will be given a list of dates for which forms and placements are to be returned or secured.

At the end of the module students are awarded a certificate of distinction, merit or pass based on a credit system that will be explained further in work experience class. They could include this with their CV in future.

Dates and Details

- Work Experience Co-ordinator: L Ní Shíomóin
- On average each student will complete four weeks of work experience.
- Students may organise two different work placements for one week each or attend the same placement for two weeks.
- Students are not permitted to use part time jobs for work experience purposes and do not receive payment for work done.
- Some students go abroad on placements; anyone considering this should speak to Ms Ní Shíomóin.
- Insurance is in place for all placements and forms will be given to students before work experience or as the need arises.
- Some students also take the opportunity to do extra work experience if this possibility arises. Students should fill in the relevant google form and email Ms Ní Shíomóin when this is done. This is essential as students may not be covered by insurance if no permission has been sought or received beforehand.
- Some companies organise work experience through the school and again students will be informed of these over the coming months.
- PREPARATION is the key. Students who apply early tend to get the best jobs and have in general more noteworthy experiences. Those who leave it until the last minute are very often disappointed and often report negative experiences as a result of their poor organisation.
- Some students may find that they will be offered work placements outside of dates above. We would encourage acceptance of these offers but a form needs to be completed and returned to Ms Ní Shíomóin before this placement to ensure relevant insurance is in place. Students need to be aware that in addition they still need to secure placements for the four weeks mentioned also.
- Any problems or queries please contact Ms Ní Shíomóin at liadan.nishiomoin@mounttemple.ie