



Transition Year Work Experience Parents Update - October 2020



With the additional restrictions imposed by level 5 we have to reconsider and amend our plans for the upcoming first module of work experience.

Originally the two weeks timetabled for November were designed with the view that students could work at home (where placements were not achieved) and then have their own social activities as normal in the evenings. The current restrictions however would mean that students would be limited to their homes for the duration of those two weeks with no option for any social contact. Having the opportunity to attend school during this lockdown gives them a chance to socialise with all the consequential benefits for their mental health.

The restrictions have also impacted students who had placements organised and which now have had to be postponed.

The following changes are proposed:

- Students will still do two weeks of work experience prior to Christmas.
- **Week One** will run from the **16th - 20th November** (The earlier planned week, 9th - 14th November has been moved to December)
- Students will then return to school for the week of 23rd - 27th (4 day week as we have the Monday off)
- **Week Two** of work experience will then run from the **30th November - 4th December**
- This week will hopefully see the lifting of restrictions and allow for some placements to resume along with giving students a chance to leave their homes for sports, clubs etc.

Students will all be absent from normal classes for these two weeks but my aim is to set up some of the computer rooms as hubs for them to work in if their home situation is not suitable.

The Plan

For students who do not have a placement:

Week 1 will be focussed on independent career investigations. Students will be required to conduct independent research into various careers and occupations by contacting people in those areas and gathering relevant information which will be compiled into a portfolio.

They will also have the opportunity to link in with several zoom conferences we are organising through the school.

There will also be additional in school courses held at scheduled times which students will be obliged to attend

Week 2 will have an emphasis on students completing certified online courses in various areas such as workplace health & safety and computer/IT skills.

The aim is to provide them with practical elements that can contribute to their CV.

There will also be additional in school courses held at scheduled times which students will be obliged to attend

Students who obtained placements which can still proceed will be allowed to do so pending their parents consent.

We would recommend that students try to reschedule any placement which has been affected to the new dates in the beginning of December, or for the new year.

We are still looking for people who might like to link in in a virtual capacity with students to give insights into their careers.

Thank you to all who have offered their time and spread the word to help facilitate this experience for our TY students.

I hope these changes are suitable for everyone and I apologise for inconveniences that might be caused. I wanted to provide this update now so as to maximise the time for preparation.

If you have any queries or thoughts on these changes don't hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,
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