St Aidan's CE High School

Applying for Work Experience

2021 - 2022



2022 Work Experience dates

Monday 04th July - Friday 8th July

Monday 11th July - Friday 15th July

Monday 18th July - Friday 22nd July





Introduction

Now that you have registered to take part in our work experience programme, please read this handbook to find out how to research, apply for and secure a **Work Experience placement.**

You will also discover:

Page 1	The key dates in the Work Experience timeline
Page 2	A reminder of the value of Work Experience
Page 3	Tips about finding a Work Experience Placement
Page 4	How to search the NYBEP database for placement ideas
Page 5	Online Research and Asking for Help
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The organisation of a work placement, as with any job application, relies on research, enterprise and tenacity. You will need to demonstrate the skills listed below to identify, approach and successfully secure your placement:

Self Motivation, Enthusiasm, Resourcefulness, Independence, Organisation, Reliability, Focus



Key Dates

Friday 18th October 2021 - deadline to return your Work
Experience Consent Slip to register for the programme – please post in the clearly marked blue box on the Main School Reception Desk.

Friday 18th February 2021 - deadline to secure all Work Experience details and return the supporting Placement Form to the Careers Department, fully completed and signed.

February - May 2022 - confirmed work experience placements will be registered on the database, triggering NYBEP to instigate their Risk Assessment process for each individual placement.

May - June 2022 - Once your job has been Health & Safety checked, the written report will be included in your **Placement**Contract and a hard copy sent to you via your register. It will also be emailed to your parent or guardian, who will be asked to reply, giving their final agreement for the placement to go ahead.

The Placement Contract will additionally list all the contact, address and job details you will need before you start. Please read it carefully and discuss the contents with your parents.

O4th **July – 22**nd **July 2022** - your Work Experience takes place within this period. We are very interested to find out what you get up to during your placement and will arrange for a member of staff to either visit or telephone you and your employer at your place of work.

On the final day of your placement you will also be asked to complete an online survey to evaluate your experience.

NB: School Trips, Year 11 Prom and other post exam activities may also take place during these dates. Please consider when securing your **Work Placement** and chose your placement week accordingly.



Why Work Experience?

Work Experience gives you confidence. If you have ever wondered where your skills fit in the workplace this is where it starts to all make sense. You will realise that your unique abilities can and will be valued. Your future starts HERE!

Work Experience is important whether you stay on in education or apply for paid employment. It demonstrates that you have considered future plans and have a realistic idea of what working life is like. The more experience you get before your first paid job, the better.

Work Experience also gives you the opportunity to gain useful skills and experience through working with a range of people from different backgrounds. These are key factors which prospective employers and universities will be looking for in your CV, Apprenticeship Application or UCAS form.

Work Experience helps you to:

- Understand the everyday realities of working life
- Find out about your own strengths and limitations
- Develop your communication skills
- · Demonstrate your skills to employers

Even if you are the perfect person applying for a job or university place, it's difficult for employers or admissions tutors to recognise that without evidence. They need tangible **proof** of your interests and skills - a placement will allow you to write believably and with relevance about the genuine experiences or insights you have gained.

Work Experience helps you learn about yourself

It's not all about impressing employers or university tutors. A placement will also reveal your own strengths and help you identify the right career path. For example:

- Are you a good communicator, able to express ideas clearly?
- Do you like working on your own or do you respond better in a team?
- Can you think on your feet and cope under pressure? Or do you prefer acting on thoughtful prior planning?
- Do you enjoy meeting deadlines and hitting targets?
- Are you creative, corporate, competitive or all three?



Finding a Work Experience Placement

- 1. Use your own networks and contacts
- 2. Use the NYBEP website
- 3. Research online
- **4.Ask for help Drop In or by Appointment**



1. Use your own network and contacts

If you have a good idea of a career sector or industry you would like to explore, use your own contacts first:

- parents work colleagues / social networks / LinkedIn contacts
- neighbours as above
- family and friends as above
- people you babysit for, or know from church, sports organisations, hobbies, clubs or volunteering groups
- employers at your existing part time job

People you know are usually very willing to support you and may be happy to recommend you to their work colleagues or personal contacts. Talk to everyone you meet about the placement you are looking for - you may be surprised by who can help. A personal introduction can make your search and application 100 x easier.

Once you have identified a potential company or organisation, follow Steps 7-9 on Page 4.

2. NYBEP Website and Database



www.nybep.work-experience.co.uk

We encourage students to find placements using their own contacts but there is also an extensive database of past placements available on the NYBEP website.

Please note; there is a common misconception, that if a company is not already listed on the NYBEP website it cannot be used for work experience. This is not true. Each year, roughly 60% of placements are offered by employers known to the student or their family contacts. These are easily added to the NYBEP system to activate arrangements for the new placement to be Risk Assessed.

Detailed login and operational instructions are on the next page.

2. NYBEP Website and Database (cont)

Researching & securing your placement on the NYBEP database

1. Login using the username and password shown above.

- 2. Click the blue **'Search For Placements'** arrow to begin your search.
- 3. Search by Employer: If you know the name of the employer you are interested in, spell the first few letters of the employer's name, go to the postcode and add the first part, e.g. YO, HG, etc. If you do not know where you want to go yet, leave the employer's details blank and click on category.
- 4. Search by Category: Select a category then complete the first part of your home postcode e.g. HG1, and next, a suitable mileage radius from the drop down box. Do not tick any of the boxes below this will reduce the number of results that you get. At the very bottom select your work experience dates (weeks commencing July 4th, July 11th or July 18th 2022).
- 5. Please be aware that personnel from each school add their own placements to the system, giving rise to a range of different category interpretations. For example, you might find one 'Marketing' related placement categorised under 'Marketing and Advertising' and another under 'Administration, Business, etc'. The best advice is not to be too specific in your search parameters.
- 6. You should now see a list of employers in your area. You can hover the mouse over the blue job title to read more about the previously offered role. If you are interested, click to read more about the job, ie. hours, location etc. NB: Even though a company has offered a placement in previous years, they may not have the resources or staff capacity to repeat in 2022
- 7. Contact the employer yourself, preferably by telephone in the first instance. Check the company is still open to work experience applications and request confirmation of the named contact, to ensure these have not changed. When you are put through to the relevant person, remember to introduce yourself confidently, clearly stating why you would like the opportunity, which school you attend and your requested dates. Above all, sound upbeat and interested. If the employer requests an application in writing, please refer to and adapt the sample email further on in this handbook.
- 8. When an employer offers you a placement, complete the details on the Placement Form at the back of this handbook and then arrange a visit to introduce and familiarise yourself. Ask the employer to confirm job details and insert their signature and Employment Liability Insurance details in the box on the back. You and your parent/carer also need to sign the form.
- 9. Once completed, hand the form to the Careers Department. They will register the placement with NYBEP, instigate the risk assessment and, in due course, issue you with a Placement Contract. (This usually happens in May/June please be patient, the timescale is governed by NYBEP.)



3. Research online

If your own contacts cannot produce any leads, try researching online by typing the name of the industry you are interested in followed by the name of your local town or area.

Once you have a list of a few possible companies or organisations, have a look at their websites. Try to get an idea of the company and the range of experience they might be able to offer you. Make a note of their key operations so that you can demonstrate your interest when contacting them. Enquire about possible placements by telephone, following Steps 7 - 9 from the previous page.

4. Ask for Help!

Unsure / Unconfident / Confused? We Can Help!

Lunchtime **Work Experience Drop In** sessions are available every **Tuesday** and **Thursday lunchtimes** in the **Careers Department.** You can drop in anytime between 12.30pm and 1.30pm - or you can book a one to one appointment at Careers Reception.

Mrs Farrar will be happy to help you explore your unique talents (everybody has them!) and your particular interests. These do not have to be subject based and you may not think they are work related – but all abilities and hobbies can demonstrate transferable and associated work skills.

The World Economic Forum predicts the following will be the most important and sought after Employment Skills by 2030.

You may be surprised by how many you already feel able to demonstrate from your life experiences so far. Think how much more confident you would feel if you could back this up with evidence from the workplace.

Problem Solving Self Management Decision Making

Critical Thinking Team & Communication Customer Service

Creativity Emotional Intelligence Resilience



Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Can I use my own contacts to source a work placement, rather than choose

a company from the NYBEP website?

Answer: Yes, this is actively encouraged. Ask the employer to complete all the details

on the Work Experience Placement Form at the back of this booklet and return to the Careers Department. We will add the new Employer details to

the database.

Question: I have sourced a placement from a company already listed on the NYBEP site

BUT the job title and description on the database differs from the job title

and description I have been offered.

Answer: Do not worry. Simply ask the employer to complete all details on the Work

Experience Placement Form at the back of this booklet and return to the Careers Department. We will add the new job title and description to the

database.

Question: Can I choose a company for my work placement which is located outside the

North Yorkshire, Leeds, York or Bradford areas?

Answer: No. Work Experience taking place within the school term dates should be

carried out at a company located in North Yorkshire, Leeds, York or Bradford.

Question: Why can I not choose a company located further afield to host my work

experience?

Answer: Companies located outside the specified areas do not fall under the area

covered by NYBEP when conducting Health & Safety or Risk Assessment checks. Please take advantage of any opportunities offered by these

companies by arranging work placements there in the school holidays.

Question: I am interested in a medical career. Are placements available at Harrogate

Hospital?

Answer: The Careers Department has close links with Harrogate Hospital, and

because placements are in such high demand from students at schools across Harrogate District, each school is allocated a limited 'quota' of opportunities. The Careers Department reserves these placements solely for Year 12 and 13 students and we therefore strongly recommend that Year 11 students look for other suitable roles in the community, such as in Care Homes or Day Centres, Nurseries, Pharmacies, Dental Practices etc. Other than this any customer facing role will offer valuable experience of dealing with members of the public and, especially in the service sector, this can often give an excellent insight into the help and support required by people

under pressure or in stressful situations.

Work Experience 'Frequently Asked Questions' (cont)

Question: Can I do more than one Work Experience Placement?

Answer: Yes, we encourage students to get as much work experience as they can.

You can obviously arrange extra placements during the holidays or, should you wish to do more than one placement over the 3 week period after GCSE exams, this can be arranged through the school programme. Additional funds will be required however — we will request £20 towards the cost of

each placement.

Questions: What does my £20 per placement cover?

Answer: £20 covers approximately 50% of the fees levied by NYBEP. NYBEP's charges

cover the cost of maintaining the database and organising the health and safety and risk assessment requirements necessary for each individual

placement to go ahead.

Question: I have no idea where to start. What sort of help is available to students?

Answer: Drop In sessions every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime in Careers or make

an appointment at Careers Reception. We can help with the following:

★ Work Placement Ideas ★ Skills identification

★ Business contacts★ CV's and Covering Letters

★ Telephoning/emailing the company ★ Mock interviews

★ Follow up contact with the company

All documents, letters and forms, including this handbook, are available to download from the Careers / Work Experience section of the school website

Question: When are the deadlines?

Answer: Deadline for registering onto the programme and returning the Parent

Consent Slip: Friday 22nd October 2021

Deadline for confirmation of placement and returning your Placement Form

to Careers: Friday 18th February 2022

Question: What details are required on the Placement Form before I can hand it in?

Answer: Please check all the details listed below are fully completed before handing in

your Placement Form:

• Work Experience Dates (confirmed by company & checked against any other Year 11 post exam activity or trip)

• Employer's signature and Employers Liability Insurance details

• Student's details and Medical information

Student's signature

• Parent or Guardian's signature

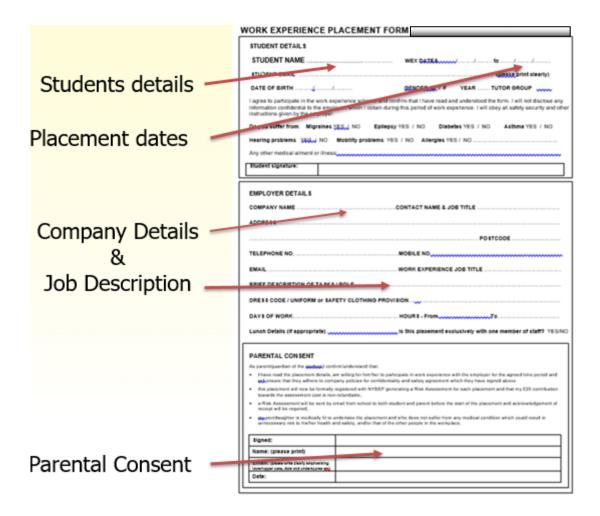
I have paid £20 to register onto the programme but I am no longer able to take part. Can I get a refund?

No. All registration payments are non-refundable from NYBEP.



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Completing Your Placement Form



Please ensure you have filled in ALL the details on your form before you hand it in to the Careers Department.

Common omissions are:

- 1. Placement Dates this is really important as we cannot register the placement until these are confirmed
- 2. Student and Parental Signature please ensure both students and parent or guardian have signed.
- 3. Employer's name, job title **and** email address / contact details
- 4. Job description, hours of work, dress code, lunch arrangements make sure you understand the general scope of your placement and the extra details which will help you feel comfortable about what to expect

Completing Your Placement Form (cont)



Employers Liability Insurance Details and Employers Signature

The back of the Placement Form contains information for the employer. It is a 'Letter of Understanding' - not too onerous, but should be read carefully and then signed by the member of company staff responsible for your placement.

Please don't forget to ask them to also fill in their Employer's Liability Insurance Policy details. NYBEP needs the following information:

- Name of the Insurer ie AXA, Hiscox, Aviva
- Policy Number
- Date of Expiry

Deadline for handing in your fully completed Placement Form — Friday February 18th 2022

Skills Worksheet - From School to the Work Place

Use this worksheet to help you identify and evidence skills and personal qualities to an employer. This will help you with your application email, on the telephone or at interview.

What **Skills** and **Personal Qualities** do you already feel you have developed from activities in school, leadership roles at clubs or societies, or from part time jobs?

Skills: communication, organisation, decision making, problem solving, IT, numeracy, graphics/art and design, etc.

2
<i>3.</i>
4
<i>5.</i>
Personal Qualities: self-motivated, determined, reliable, resilient, etc.
<i>1.</i>
2
<i>3.</i>
4
<i>5.</i>

Remember the top 10 skills and attributes valued by employers

Problem Solving People Management Decision Making
Critical Thinking Team & Communication Customer Service
Creativity Emotional Intelligence Negotiation

From the **Skills** you have identified on the previous page, list below the 3 that you feel will be most beneficial to include in your **Work Experience** application. Try to provide written evidence by giving examples of where, when, and how you used them to good effect.

E.g. Graphics / Art and Design skills used to produce a school poster
1)
2)
3)
Out of the Personal Qualities you have identified on the previous page, choose 3 that you feel will be most beneficial to include in your Work Experience application. Try to provide written evidence by
describing how you have drawn on these qualities to achieve success.
E.g. worked independently to produce a particular assignment
E.g. worked independently to produce a particular assignment
E.g. worked independently to produce a particular assignment 1)
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Example Email to Employers

Subject: Work Experience July 2022 - St Aidan's Year 11 student

Dear Mr/Mrs/Miss Named Person

(if you do not know this, telephone the company and ask the receptionist if they could give you the name of the person at the company responsible for arranging student work experience placements. NB. Please be aware that just because a company has offered placements in the past, does not mean they will have the capacity of staff or the finances to be able to help this year. Even if they are in a position to do so, there may not be a named person allocated the task of sorting out the placements — so you may need to approach the Managing Director or Senior Partner in the first instance. Please always try to obtain a specific name & email address.)

I am a student in year 11 at St Aidan's Church of England High School in Harrogate and I would like to apply for a work experience opportunity within your company from......to.............. insert dates.

I have a genuine interest in the sector (e.g. Retail/Financial Services /Construction/Hospitality/Digital/Education/Creative etc.) and a placement with your company will assist me to gain further understanding of the skills needed for a career in this field.

(Next paragraph should highlight details that make you particularly suitable for a work experience placement with the company)

Throughout my school life and/or part time work/voluntary work/extra-curricular activities (delete as necessary) I have demonstrated (insert two or three of the skills / personal qualities you identified on Page 10) evidenced by (insert examples as identified on Page 11). I particularly enjoy studying insert subject(s), and intend to continue this/these subject/s at A level (if applicable).

(Reinforce enthusiasm + any additional relevant achievements/evidence).

I am sure that you receive many requests for work experience but hope that you will view my application favourably and I look forward to hearing from you. I would be very happy to visit your *offices/showroom/shop* (delete as necessary) to introduce myself and attend an interview, if required.

Yours sincerely *(when addressed to a named person)*

First Name & Surname

Insert email address St Aidan's CE School Harrogate

If you would be more comfortable copying in your parent/guardian to the email, please add *Parent's Name* (**Parent**)

Parent's email (**cc'd**)

Sample CV

Occasionally, employers ask students to submit a CV to support their application. A blank, template CV can be found on the school website: www.staidans.co.uk/departments/careers/writing-a-cv-and-interviews/

Name

Address and Postcode

Telephone: 01423 112233 Email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Profile:

I am a self-motivated, ambitious 16 year old with a particular ability and interest in numeracy and calculation. I am eager to gain an understanding of working life and the skills required to succeed. I enjoy problem solving and am dedicated and organised, achieving good results working on my own as well as part of team.

Key Achievements:

- Displayed proactive initiative in securing a sought after part-time job and have proved willing
 and able to cope with changes or adaptions when frequent last minute alterations to paper
 round route are added. Consistently delivered in this role for 4 months showing reliability,
 trustworthiness, responsibility and self-motivation.
- Played for school football team for 2 years sacrificing lunch and after school free time to train and compete in matches, demonstrating competitiveness, team work, physical endurance and commitment.
- Attended week-long Outward Bound training in the Lake District, March 2018, working alongside
 people outside my friendship group & with different instructors. Challenged myself to complete
 endurance activities ie Night-time Orienteering, Zip Wire & Abseiling descents showing openness
 to learn new skills and willingness to try out activities beyond my comfort zone. Demonstrates
 understanding of risk assessment & need for good preparation.

Education:

General level of academic ability and any extra curricular or additional qualifications

10 subjects at GCSE – Examinations June 2022

Particular interest in Maths, History, Spanish and PE.

Music Grade 6 - Clarinet

Work Experience (if applicable)

Dates:OrganisationJob TitleJune 2020 - PresentOne Stop, Knaresborough Road, HarrogatePaperboy

Skills acquired

Organisation/reliability/ accountability/determination

Hobbies and Interests:

I attend a local Gym 3-4 times per week demonstrating perseverance and a commitment to maintaining fitness levels

Testimony from previous employers

Nidec SR Drives

".....has continually impressed us with his confident approach and his very positive attitude to learning and meeting new people. His time keeping was excellent......asked lots of relevant questions and listened well."

Kirby Malzeard Primary School

"....relationships with the staff have been very positive and professional. Extremely polite and well mannered...He has shown initiative and immersed himself fully in all activities..."

Harrogate Climbing Centre

".....has shown herself to be enthusiastic and committed in her approach to any tasks put before her. She is diligent, has good communication skills and a vibrant personality. It has been a pleasure to have her working with the team..."

SoVibrant Ltd

".....has been a real asset as a work experience placement. Very creative, eager to learn and worked well with the team...we would be proud to have her back..."

Skills evidence from past students

Smeeden Foreman

"I drew a plan for a project and measured where everything would go, working out the technical details using help from others in the team and my own initiative. I demonstrated my application of Maths and my creativity and created a full plan for a site in Italy including placement of plants, path, pergolas and ramps."

St Michael's Dental Practice

"Using dental tools I carried out a successful root canal treatment on a fake tooth, with assistance from the dentist and a dental nurse. I demonstrated manual dexterity and enthusiasm and enhanced my understanding of the structure of a tooth."

Harrogate Scenic Services

"I started by producing creative design ideas with the workshop manager and then evaluated the best option. I used many wood working techniques along with different paint styles to achieve a variety of finishes. The outcome was a professionally produced theatrical set, produced on time – and a satisfied client."

Specsavers

"I helped an elderly woman chose the best glasses for her based on her complicated prescription. I spent a long time with her, listening to what she had to say and trying to understand her preferences, demonstrating creativity, understanding, commitment and friendliness."

Finally.....

Please do remember that Mrs Farrar can assist you with all aspects of your **Work Experience** placement, including:

- Searching for placements on the NYBEP website
- Telephone confidence
- Letters of application
- CVs
- Mock interviews
- Remember, all **Work Experience** is beneficial, even if it is not related to your planned university course or career.
- Please don't leave it until the last minute to ask for help. You can drop
 in or make an appointment at the Careers Department every Tuesday
 and Friday lunchtime.



The Careers Department

St Aidan's Church of England High School October 2021

