

Students Testimonials for Virtual Work Experience 2020 - 2021

Speakers for Schools Virtual Work Experiences:

Hart Biological Jess, Year 11

...it was very informative into a career in biomedicine as well as other sciences such as criminology. It had some computer based activities which were quite difficult to navigate but overall a good insight into what it would be like to work for a company like Hart and how you go about getting similar jobs in the NHS.

Tesco F&F Clothing, Maddy Year 10

I really enjoyed the Tesco work experience I have taken in a lot from this, and I understand a lot more about sustainability overall it was a useful and exciting experience to have, and I am very thankful that I got this opportunity.

Wilmott Dixon Construction, George Year 13

The work experience was really good. I was going in with the mindset of purely doing it just to put down on my cv, but the week exceeded my expectations. It had guided me more off the path I was on and in a different direction as I now know a lot more about the industry.

Not only did it help my knowledge of the construction industry, it also gave me some important life skills. Such as having to do a project with people I had never met before from all different walks of life. It taught me how to get the best out of people I do not know. I also improved my presenting skills as I had to present my project to 30 people (although on teams is still pretty scary).

So overall, an extremely successful week!

Tesco Finance Head Office, Erin Year 10

I really enjoyed the work experience! Tesco provided lots of resources to aid with the work experience and they had a very wide variety of speakers - such as people who had been with the business for over 20 years on the same panel as people who had only just begun the graduate scheme. I learnt a lot about finance and the different roles within the industry, which I really enjoyed because we learnt what each role involves - this helped me to see if a career in finance is something I think would suit me.

We did a workshop on interview skills, and this helped me to understand what employers look for in a candidate. During the week, we were also tasked with completing a business case much like the one that the finance team would put together. The people running the placement were incredibly supportive with this and ensured that we were sure of what we were doing.

I would definitely participate in another work experience soon.

Caxton Associates - Investments & Trading, Tom Year 12

I found the virtual work experience at Caxton very insightful and knowledgeable; I also learnt a lot of information about what Hedge funds do and how they operate etc. With the virtual work experience it has helped me decide about (hopefully) working in the financial industry when I am older.

National Grid/Net Zero, Ellie Year 12

It has been amazing, and I've learnt so much! It certainly wasn't what I was expecting. It was a 3-day workshop, focusing on the different stages of the National Grid recruitment process. The skills learnt could be applied to any application for a company. We focused on Personal Profiling, Teambuilding, Assessment Centres and Interviews. We were put into breakout rooms on Teams and had to discuss and negotiate and I volunteered to feedback my group's ideas to the rest of the participants and organisers. For the interview session we learned about the STAR method for answering competency-based questions. Again, we were put into break out rooms and each gave examples for questions surrounding problem solving and teamwork. In the main meeting, I put myself forward to answer the interview style question in full using the method in front of everyone. I would feel so much more confident now in a recruitment processes and I have also gained an increased knowledge of the energy sector and what the National Grid are doing to ensure a net-zero future. I would rate it 10/10

Hart Biologicals, Czarek Year 12

The placement offered a valuable insight into Hart Biologicals and what the company does, as we learned how pipettes might be used in a lab, watched videos about the theory surrounding how a blood clot worked and did a small experiment to simulate what a blood clot might look like in real life. This experience will prove valuable in showing my extracurricular interest in Biology companies and also my understanding of the practices carried out when doing lab work.

Kainos Coding, Hamdan Year 13

For the Kainos placement it was really helpful and a good insight into the industry and how I would be expected to work in teams and the type of work flow that is used nowadays. We also did some coding games which was a great introduction and we explored how you can hack sites and what the common weaknesses of sites are. There was also an introduction into HTML.

Nuclear Engineering, William Year 12

Firstly, the placement was incredibly well presented using a variety of interactive activities and they gave plenty of Q & A opportunities for the students to ask the presenters about their personal experiences. The experience really opened my eyes to all the different roles involved in nuclear engineering and how they collaborate with other types of engineering e.g. civil and manufacturing engineering. I was surprised at the wide range of paths available for students to take to go from college/ sixth form to working within the Engineering industry, for example one of the presenters chose to do a HND in electrical engineering before being employed. This placement has inspired me to aim for the engineering industry when considering career paths.

Covance Pharmaceutical Development & Bioanalysis, Czarek Year 12

Covance was a great experience. We got to hear about job roles at Covance and personal experiences with employment in Biology careers from 3 employees working at the Harrogate Covance lab. They offered advice and tips that I found to be useful, and I even got to ask questions about the methods and equipment they were using in the lab. We also watched videos about Covance and the different departments their Harrogate lab has and what function they served.

Pharmacy Insight Day, Aleena Year 12

I enjoyed the work experience for pharmacy. It was very interesting and helped give me a wider knowledge on this career.

Springpod Virtual Work Experiences:

Springpod Teaching

Alicia Year 12

At half term I did a Teaching work experience with Springpod and it was so helpful and enjoyable. It gave me an insight and I am considering doing primary school teaching or tefl in the future

Springpod Finance & St James Place Wealth Management

Mattias

Year 13

I've found the Springpod Finance opportunity incredibly insightful and interesting as it really is so broad. I've learnt about accountancy, insurance, banking etc and it is really helpful to actually understand what these careers involve when looking for something to pursue. It has definitely helped me to understand how to aim for these careers and what would be useful to evidence in applications.

St James' Place was a bit more specialised. There were insights into a range of departments across their business rather than just finance, and this was useful, while a bit tedious at times as I wasn't so interested in what marketing were doing for example. However, it's been incredibly helpful for starting to become career oriented, as one of the tasks was to set up a linkedin account and reach out the various people who were giving us talks and I have already begun to build my profile.

Springpod TV & Film + Journalism, Hector Year 11

I have taken part in two Springpod virtual work experience courses, an introduction to journalism and an introduction to Tv and film. Both courses were very engaging - there were lots of tasks that were checked by Springpod and the virtual webinars were very interesting, especially the Q&As. Another aspect that was helpful in the TV and Film work experience was the information about the best universities and the qualification needed to get into them.

Springpod – Fashion and Law, Ella Year 11

I very much enjoyed the Fashion and Law virtual Work Experience courses. The courses were very well run, I loved that you could do each section as you pleased at your own pace. But then also having the few timetable lectures created a good balance of working on your own and with people. It was helpful that we could watch the lectures back later if we missed them as sometimes I was a school when one was happening. Both courses gave me lots of knowledge into each career sector that I didn't know before and will be very helpful in the future when I am deciding a career path.

Springpod Psychology, Abbie Year 12

I have now finished the work experience and actually really enjoyed it, it didn't feel at all like a chore or something I had to make myself do which was good. I liked the variation of activities and things there were to complete as there was a range of written information, webinars, videos then followed by surveys, quizzes and assessed activities.

I thought the virtual delivery was definitely effective and I very much liked that I was able to do the tasks in my own time within the set time given and it wasn't too structured regarding deadlines, there was only one at the end to have the whole thing finished by.

Overall, I think it was a very good use of my time and gave me a much better understanding of psychology as a whole which will hopefully help me with my psychology A Level studies.

Springpod Fashion, Kirsten Year 10

I very much enjoyed the Fashion virtual work experience. I thought it was a great course that really boosted my knowledge of the industry. It was very clearly presented and accessible and I learnt a great deal about the individual roles within the industry. I particularly liked hearing from those in the industry live and their tips on how they got to where they are now; it was extremely interesting. I loved the course and it has consolidated even more the potential of following this as a career.

Springpod Fashion & Springpod Teaching, Kate Year 10

I found that both work experiences opportunities were interesting and well presented. They were easy to work through and I learnt a lot, particularly about the different roles in fashion and teaching. I am probably more open to careers in either industry after taking part in the work experiences.

Springpod Engineering, Jamie Year 12

I found the Virtual Work Experience very interesting and though it was well presented. I learnt that engineering is not just one thing but that there are different sectors of engineering, I found civil engineering to be the most interesting and the one I am looking to study at university.

What surprised me was the large amount of apprenticeship opportunities to study civil engineering to degree level. It helped me decide what branch of engineering I want to study and showed me that I don't just have to go to university to study civil engineering, I could instead choose to do an apprenticeship.

Springpod Psychology, Eleanor Year 12

The psychology virtual placement was really well presented and easy to navigate around the website, and was very useful especially when they asked me reflection questions before and after each module to track my progress on how I was feeling about the course.

The actual content was very informative and actually a lot more helpful than I expected, as it went through each individual field within psychology and the process in which you would get a job within this field, and the content which you would cover, examples of jobs, and salary expectations.

I think the work experience has just further confirmed my interest in psychology – it has helped me feel more confident in the enrolment process and given me more of an idea of what I need to do after university etc.