



## On the Right Track Railway Opportunities

Working at a train station has been the long-term aspiration for one of our students. We are pleased to share that he has joined a volunteering team at Swaythling Station once a week for work experience.

The role involves gardening and maintenance of the station grounds but, of course, has the added benefit of being able to watch as trains pass through the platforms. The team are very impressed by the amount and quality of work achieved each week and have shared how grateful they are to have such an excellent volunteer on board.



We are fortunate to have links with the Hampshire Community Rail Network but we have also more recently linked with South Western Railways to make a rich portfolio of connections within this industry.

We also support the 'Try the Train' initiative by developing inclusive pictorial resources – providing an opportunity to practise office skills for our students. In return, our students can 'Try the Train' helping them develop knowledge, skills and confidence in their ability to travel on the railway system.

Exciting news we can now share is that we are in the final stages of adopting a local train station! Taking ownership of the station will provide numerous opportunities for work experience. We will need to maintain the building and its surrounding environment. This is a long-term project which will give the students a real sense of achievement and pride. Students and staff are delighted to be involved with such a unique experience.

If you or anyone you know could help extend our employer links or you would like to find out more about college admissions

**Call 01425 482498**

[www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk](http://www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk)





## Focus on Interviews

Following the development of a four-tier inclusive interview initiative, the first of our student interviews took place to fill two milk delivery jobs on our site.

Based upon an individual's comprehension and communication levels, the interview adopted the most appropriate format and gave a flavour of what an interview would be like.

All candidates managed the interview process well. They also carried out a practical demonstration of delivering milk from the college office to the Hub and we were very pleased to offer the jobs to students who were exceptional.

Interviews were also held for various other jobs around the Sheiling site including painting an office, cleaning and woodwork.



## In Person

Students in Yellow and Red Groups attended a jobs fair at Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth. They were able to see the variety of job roles on offer within our local community and collect useful information leaflets about working for different employers.

CAN (Community Action Network) also made a welcome comeback to face-to-face meetings. They offer volunteering events in several locations. I attended the session in Druitt Hall, Christchurch and was pleased to make several contacts with providers of work experience. We hope to pursue some of these additional opportunities very soon.

Claire

links to 15  
employers

farming  
gardening  
retail

conservation  
maintenance  
customer service

Link with us  
to be featured  
& promoted

## WESLEY'S CAFÉ

### Student Work Placement

One of our students completed a work placement at Wesley's Café in Poole and it was a great success. The role involved serving customers at numbered tables, clearing and cleaning tables once vacated and preparing cutlery sets.

Adjusting to varied break times and the level of engagement required for a full shift was more challenging at first but, with the support of college staff and colleagues at the café, this was quickly overcome.

The importance and value of work experience must not be underestimated. Work experience can help determine the reality of working in a café from the thought of the role and what it could entail. Insight can only be gained through the experience of giving it a try.

The staff at Wesley's were delighted with the confidence displayed from the very first shift notably the engagement with the other staff members and carrying out the tasks set.

Wesley's Café is a supportive environment to work in and we look forward to continuing our relationship with them; hopefully other students can benefit from placements in the future. ([thespirepoole.co.uk](http://thespirepoole.co.uk))



## The World of Engineering

We were recently invited to visit TECHNICAir. TECHNICAir is a company specialising in the maintenance of small aircraft. A group of students were able to meet employees working in a variety of roles, such as HR and engineering.

A safety briefing formed part of a social story the students were provided with in preparation and the visit did not disappoint. The aircraft were extremely popular with both students and staff. We extend our thanks to everyone at TECHNICAir and we look forward to visits and work experience opportunities in the future.

TECHNICAir - Worldwide Aircraft Maintenance Repair & Overhaul

