

Thames Valley Berkshire ‘Workplace Encounter’ Project

Speakers for Schools, in collaboration with and funded by Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, are launching a project to support schools in the Thames Valley Berkshire area. This project will support young people in 16 schools in the Thames Valley Berkshire area to gain an insight into careers and the workplace.

The 3-session programme aims to:

- Drive experiences with employers, increase experiences of the world of work and support schools with meeting Gatsby Benchmark 6.
- Give young people an insight into the world of work – including the skills required. This helps them make future career decisions and builds motivation for the here and now.
- Increase the number of lower year groups accessing experiences of the world of work at identified schools.

To help these young people we are reaching out to our business community to support work experience opportunities.

This experience will provide young people with opportunities to meet employers and uncover new careers. Spread over three 2-3 hour sessions, or condensed into one day, the project gives business volunteers, young people, and teachers a chance to build a relationship over time. We will support you in planning and delivering content.

We will be working with a group of up to 30 year 9-11 students from each school (some groups are considerably smaller) who will take part in all 3 sessions. We will be offering 3 bespoke sessions for each school. An example outline is provided below:

- Session 1: Introduction to the Workplace (in-school or virtual)
 - Introduction to the company/employees
 - Set students up for their workplace experience
 - Completion of pre-experience survey
- Session 2: Experience of a Workplace (in-school or at the workplace)
 - Introduction to employer and potential career pathways
 - Tour of the workplace (video if in school)
 - Group task related to the employer and designed to develop key skills
- Session 3: CV Workshop and Reflection (in-school or virtual)
 - Reflection of workplace experience and skills developed through creating a CV
 - Celebration of achievement
 - Completion of post-experience survey

The above framework can be altered to suit school/employer need and will be delivered over a schedule to suit you both (e.g. over 3 weeks/ 3 days/ 3 shorter sessions on one day, etc.).

We really appreciate you considering taking part in this project, which will not only support local young people but will also provide an opportunity for your employees to gain skills by undertaking volunteering, support a community initiative, and help to inspire the future workforce to pursue a role at your organisation. All employers supporting the project will receive and be featured in an impact report.