

## Work Experience (WEX)

The WEX is led by Mr Lee Grant - Phone: 01274 676285 (Ext 2357) and email: [workexperience@buttershaw.net](mailto:workexperience@buttershaw.net)

As part of my role Head of Careers, I assist students in finding work experiences that enhance their skill sets and inform their career plans. We encourage students to investigate career opportunities both locally and nationally and through direct experience of the world of work, work related learning and Enterprise activities. We think this is important at Buttershaw for a number of reasons:

- With the decline in part-time employment it is more important than ever to get experience;
- It develops employability skills, which are vital for the world of work ;
- Gain an real experience of the world of work ;
- From the employers perspective it can be a seen as a talent pipeline for their businesses;
- Helps students with decision making for the future
- Gives students an advantage in finding employment, with 80% of employers seeing it as essential

The government has recognised the need for work experience and have incorporated this into OFSTED inspections and it is one of the '8 Gatsby Benchmarks' of good careers guidance. ([https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/gatsby\\_benchmark\\_6.pdf](https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/gatsby_benchmark_6.pdf)).

We continue to engage with many local businesses using our established and substantial business links, building upon them through the annual Aspirations Event and other employer engagement opportunities calendared throughout the year.

Year 10 students would usually have a block placement for a week in May but due to COVID-19 **BDAT has taken the decision that it will not go ahead in 2021**. We as a school are looking at alternatives, including looking into a virtual offering of work experience for students.

### Employers

We are still interested in working with local employers and hope to have our WEX program running again in the Academic year 2021- 22.

If you are a local business and would like to support our work experience initiative in the future, we would like to hear from you. Please take a moment to read the following checklist:

Can you place a student?

Do you have staff available to supervise and guide the student?

Do you have public liability insurance?

Mr L Grant

Head of Careers

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