

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

incorporating

WEST CUMBRIA CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM CENTRE

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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Headteacher:
EMMA JACKSON

14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Work experience is an essential part of the curriculum and develops our pupils' confidence, skills and awareness of the world of work. Best practice is that pupils should carry out two placements, one in Year 10 and one in Year 12 to have the maximum impact on their personal development.

Due to Covid – 19 many employers have indicated to us that they will not be offering placements in person. Virtual work experience has been a rapid area for development over the last year. Some of our pupils have been fortunate to secure online placements which we now see have had the positive impact we want for all of our pupils.

We have considered carefully the various options available to us and have decided that we will go ahead with a work awareness week between 5th - 9th July. We anticipate that the vast majority of our pupils will secure virtual work experience 'VWEX'. The Sellafeld Elements programme was extremely successful last year. This is being offered again virtually and is well worth completing if you are in Y10.

The Speakers for Schools Platform is offering a range of opportunities. The VWEX offered through their platform is extremely well regarded and places are much sought after. They track attendance. They offer a mix of 1 day, 3 day and 5 day opportunities which can be added together to make a 5 day varied week. Pupils have a 1 in 3 chance of securing a place so should apply early. You can withdraw an application later if you choose to apply for several experiences.

Whilst the whole spectrum of careers won't necessarily be available, the work place skills that are developed on these placements are going to be a huge advantage when added to a CV and in making applications in the future.

Pupils have been shown how to apply for placements through Speakers for Schools and Springpod by their tutor. Please could you look together with them and discuss the placements which are available and help them with their applications?

The Y10 Sellafeld Elements programme can be applied for at this link: [Application Form](#)

Please note that the placements may close before the advertised closing date if they are oversubscribed. A small number of pupils have asked if they could carry out a real placement which have been provided by a family member. If this is the case then the employer should contact school at workexperience@st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk and let us know their name, business, contact phone number and the name of the pupil. We will then require a form to be completed by the family and business. This will only be for a very few pupils as most employers have indicated that work experience in person is not feasible during the current pandemic. Pupils may only attend a placement if we have carried out the necessary checks and have given approval. All paperwork must have been returned and completed by May 27th at the latest. Pupils should endeavour to apply for their own VWEX placement. They can seek help from their tutor if they need help with navigating the platforms. Please let the tutors know if your son/daughter applies for a placement via Speakers for School and be aware that we are required to share a small amount of data with the platform. This is covered by the signed home-school agreement.

Pupils who do not secure a placement will attend school and participate in in-house work awareness activities.



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Please contact your child's tutor, Head of Year or myself if you need any support or have any further questions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Kelso
Senior Leader



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