

Below are the Work Experience placements by section for Years 12 and 10 in June 2023. Also included are some students' reviews of their experiences as well as examples of employer feedback.

Year 12	No.	Year 10	No.
Architect	1	Aviation	4
Automotive	4	Banking/Finance	13
Banking/Finance	3	Beauty	6
Borough Council/Public services	5	Borough Council	3
Care home	1	Care home	1
Charities	2	Construction	11
Construction	17	Electrical	1
Consultancy	1	Entertainment	1
Data/Marketing	2	Fire protection	1
Education other	1	Food/Restaurants	6
Engineering	3	Law	2
Entertainment/leisure	3	Leisure/Travel	10
Estate Agent/Property Management	8	Manufacturing/Engineering	4
Law	4	Marketing	1
Medical	7	Media/Digital	3
Nursery Educ.	8	Medical	4
Other services	1	Misc.	4
Plumbing/Electrical	4	Motor/Garage	7
Primary .	12	Nuclear waste	1
Retail	11	Nursery Educ.	12
Secondary Educ.	5	Other Educ.	2
Transport/Logistics	3	Other services	2
Utilities	5	Pharmacy	1
Veterinary	1	Primary Educ.	21
		Property Management	5
		Retail	19
		Secondary Educ.	3
		Transport/Logistics	5
		Veterinary	1
		Virtual W/exp.	5
		Charity	1

O'Halloran O'Brien (Construction and engineering) - Jason Year 10

I enjoyed working as part of a team with people who I met at the site. This is because they made me feel included. We were able to converse and work together to solve tasks.

I learned that being social with new people can boost self-esteem and can create new friendships. I learned what it takes to be a leader and how I can bring people together. I learned the importance of fire safety and what to do in a fire. I learned the importance of foundations and groundwork and how safety attributes needed to step foot on a construction site.

Work experience has presented me with the effort needed in everyday life as an adult, and the responsibility that comes with working for companies. It has made it clearer for what I want to do when I'm an adult, and how I should put more effort in school to achieve this job.

You must be quick when it comes to picking out work experience and you should not leave it to the last minute. Work experience is a fun week of opportunity away from school, and it can help a lot when it comes to career paths.

Houses of Parliament - Holly Year 12

During my placement I undertook some parliamentary research for a bill which had just been reconstructed. I was able to sit in the gallery of the House of Commons and watch the debate on the bill. Another thing I was able to do was to attend a public committee regarding issues concerning the EU.

I enjoyed being able to experience the debates and working environment of the government first hand as I'm interested in politics. Furthermore, I enjoyed the atmosphere as it made me feel welcomed, which to me is an important factor.

The experience gave me deeper insights into things that I learn within my studies, but also to what career with politics. It allowed me to build on my research skills which has benefitted me. Another thing the experience gave me was independence, for example I had to find places myself, attend activities alone as well as having to travel to London each day on my own.

Work experience helped me to confirm what I want to study in university and it also showed me the wide range of jobs in the political field. It also showed me the pressures of some roles I was interested in.

As someone who undertook two work experiences placements, I would say it is important to search around for placements that fits your interests in school, and potentially careers that you are interested in. Ensure that you engage in all activities as you need a positive reference.

BAE Systems - Susanna Year 10

I did engineering and electrical tasks in a group situation and we made a presentation at the end. The best part was the team working skills, as we worked in pairs in competition with others. I learned about engineering and things I would never have learned at school, so it was really an eye-opening experience.

It made me realise that there's a lot of pathways, and even though I still have not decided on a career path yet, I really enjoyed this experience.

My advice is to find something you are interested in; therefore, you will enjoy while learning. Don't feel limited. I went all the way to Portsmouth and it really paid off as I was given a Cadet Award.

Dietetics Department at Darent Valley Hospital and Centre Clinic - Samantha Year12

My work was mainly shadowing, taking notes on patients, both over the phone and in person appointments. I observed monthly Zoom calls about new treatments. In the hospital I shadowed dietitians as they went around the wards and I carried the corresponding files for each patient.

I enjoyed going around the wards and interacting with the different patients. Being able to see what an impact dietitians have on nursing someone back to health, whether it is someone struggling to eat or a cancer patient in recovery made me understand the importance of our dietary need and how dietetics aids in this.

I learned that despite dietetics being a smaller aspect of our lives, our dietary health is universal; how doctors and other professionals interact really opened my eyes to the vital role dietitians have in health care. With this I came to understand the importance of punctuality and the ability to work within a group. Working together feeds your knowledge and helps everyone's understanding.

While I do not see myself working in a hospital, I see myself working in an area similar to a clinic centre where I work with patients directly.

My advice to you is have some idea of what you want to do in your work experience and link it to what you want to do in the future and things that you enjoy. Work experience helps you to figure out what work you might like to do or not to.

All have fun!

Ambassador Cruise Line – Max Year 10

Each day of my work experience I spent a time in different sections of the company; trade sales, reservations, guest operations, IT, guest relations/services, marketing, shore excursions and finance. I also received a ship tour in Tilbury with the Head of Operations.

The department I enjoyed the most was IT, due to my interest in this area, which I would like to pursue in the maritime industry. In this department, the head of department showcased the system and the steward showcased their current projects and a practical with SQL coding.

Work experience helped me to confirm that this industry is the one I want to pursue as a career, and I understand the differences which come by working for a large scale line (eg Royal Caribbean Group) compared to a smaller scale group such as Ambassador.

My advice is to find work experience in an industry or company in which you would like to pursue a career. Find the contact details for their HR and send a passionate email as to why you want to work with that company or industry.

Employer feedback

She carried out bank analysis, preparation of VAT Returns, Euro account reconciliation which she completed well...Listening: When X completed her last bank analysis task with over 125 pages of information, she took detailed notes of items to pay close attention to. (Accountancy Firm)

He worked on documents of the company. He also supervised activities on the website. He had been helping the director to manage company accounts as well. Resilience / Staying positive: He has been handling all tasks assigned to him with great care. He has been very positive throughout his placement. (Company)

She worked extremely well with the children and communicated with the team...Resilience / Staying positive: Good team work and readiness to learn (Pre-school)

He showed the willing to learn and ask questions about the Job he was doing. Assisting in servicing pumps, maintaining pumps, plumbing and isolated electrical works...Teamwork: He assisted in all tasks and helped me when required and worked safely. He listens and remembers information given in the tasks undertaken. (Construction company)

He was exposed to different areas of the business including retail, events, venue operations and the football department...Independence: He showed a great initiative and independence when working through projects that he was tasked with. He was always willing to be exposed to all different aspects of the organisation. Harry would only need to be shown how to start a task before completing tasks on his own accord. (Sports and leisure)

She worked as part of a class team fulfilling the role of Teaching Assistant. worked tirelessly in a challenging cohort to effectively support the teacher and support staff...had an excellent attitude towards her placement (Primary school)

He worked with various teams throughout the week, this included the Sales Team, Lettings Team and Property Management Team, He was giving a folder on all elements and also legislation notes also. He accompanied the sales teams on Sales Viewings and Sales Valuations, seeing properties from 450,000 - 1.8 Million, he accompanied lettings viewings and also attended lettings valuations, Pre Tenancy checks for tenants moving into new homes, Sean also worked on spread sheets for Valuation generation, using applications such as Excel, word and Vebra as well as Google Sheets, he was tasked with finding property address using back door access and codes to find such details. He also attended a directors meeting for the South East of London, which is the top 9 directors in SE London and their performance review for last 6 months and next 6 months. He worked with many different people from varying back grounds and cultures. He has taking away a back and kept a Diary of his daily activities also... His greatest resilience was the fact he was able to communicate and talk with others giving his personal situations, He was able to listen and take notes and actually wrote down everything he was showed and saw. Making clear and concise notes. He is obviously independent, but it was good to see him interact with other team members and they approached him and made him feel comfortable. He was sat in front office of high street agency and of course this meant listening and observing customers up front and personal. He was able to see and get an understanding of what an active office does and behaves. Of course being mindful of office culture and diversity. (Estate agent)

She observed various scans in the EPU and listened to breaking bad news. She was courteous and interested. She was able converse with patients and their partners with ease and this it itself is always reassuring to the patient. (Medical setting)

I just want to say a really big thank you for arranging and selecting Y for the work experience at Y bank last week. He really enjoyed it, learnt a lot and the people there were really nice & welcoming to them. He was very enthusiastic about sharing what he had been doing and as I'm sure you're aware it's not often that teenager boys share information about their days, so that was really lovely as a mum! They sound like a really good company to work for! (A mum)